



## *Old Veterans Guard*

### **HOMELESS VETERAN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROJECT**

November 19, 2012

Congressman Henry Waxman  
House of Representatives  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Sent via e-mail to Ms. Lisa Pinto  
Senior Deputy, Los Angeles Office  
[Lisa.Pinto@mail.house.gov](mailto:Lisa.Pinto@mail.house.gov),

Dear Congressman Waxman:

This communication is in conjunction with the following November 14<sup>th</sup> letter sent to President Barack Obama that includes a Resolution and information package requesting him to declare a State-of-Emergency for homeless Veterans in Los Angeles.

The Resolution also calls on the President to re-appropriate \$20 million arranged by you and Senator Feinstein that has been designated to fix up the vacant and vermin-infested Building 209 on the VA grounds, and re-designating the funds for the immediate establishment of first-rate provisional housing and benevolent care with full support toward the "Homeless Veteran Humanitarian Relief Project."

Building 209 is projected to be completed two years from now and will house only 50 or 60 Veterans at a cost of nearly \$400,000 per room. Fellow Veterans are outraged over the disproportionate over-spending for so few and on such a disgraceful structure. Clearly, the \$20 million will be more effectively spent by providing immediate shelter and care on these sacred grounds for thousands of disabled and needy Veterans.

On behalf of all disabled and homeless Veterans, we respectfully request that you: *a) join the President in declaring Los Angeles a State-of-Emergency for homeless Veterans; b) redesignate the \$20 million for Building 209 to the emergency Homeless Veteran Humanitarian Relief Project, c) request the President to withdraw his Administration's defense against the ACLU lawsuit; d) request his Administration to build a new and modern National Veterans Home; e) request VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to immediately terminate the employment of Donna Beiter, executive director of the Los Angeles VA for violating my Constitutional Right to Free Speech and for violating her oath of office to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.*

As you know, Thursday is Thanksgiving. Accordingly, please express your thanks and appreciation to the thousands of disabled and destitute Veterans who are homeless and expedite the forgoing for their benefit.

Thank you and have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Rosebrock  
Director, Old Veterans Guard



## *Old Veterans Guard*

### **HOMELESS VETERAN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROJECT**

November 14, 2012

Certified, Return-Receipt-Requested

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations on your re-election and thank you for your promise to end Veteran homelessness.

Los Angeles is our Nation's capital for homeless Veterans and we need your immediate assistance.

Enclosed is an information package that includes a Resolution respectfully requesting that you declare a State-of-Emergency for homeless Veterans in Los Angeles.

In 1888, more than 600 acres of land were deeded to the U.S. Government for the permanent and sole benefit of housing disabled and disadvantaged Veterans. In accordance with a Congressional Act of 1887, a National Soldiers Home was constructed for permanent housing and care.

Today, an estimated 20,000 disabled and disadvantaged Veterans live homeless and hungry on the dangerous streets of Los Angeles because their legally deeded property has been misappropriated for non-Veteran use. Moreover, nearly half are from the Vietnam War era, are aged, frail and in declining health.

The mismanagement and misuse of property at the Los Angeles National Veterans Home is colossal in scale and criminal in execution. This malfeasance didn't begin on your watch but it is imperative that you end it immediately.

Currently, there's an ACLU lawsuit against your Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the executive director of the Los Angeles VA for misusing Veterans property and mistreating disabled homeless Veterans.

Your Department of Justice and U.S. Attorneys are aggressively fighting the lawsuit and this is simply unacceptable. In fact, it is unconscionable. As Commander-in-Chief of our United States Armed Forces, please advise your DOJ that taking care of our disabled Military Veterans is not a legal challenge; it is a moral responsibility. Respectfully, please withdraw your Administration's defense, posthaste.

On behalf of all disabled and needy Veterans, please declare a State-of-Emergency for homeless Veterans in Los Angeles and direct Congress to re-appropriate the \$20 million previously designated for remodeling the disgraceful Building 209 and re-designate the funds for the immediate establishment of provisional housing and benevolent care on these sacred grounds.

We look forward to your direct attention and action to provide immediate humanitarian relief for thousands of homeless Veterans and to settle the lawsuit by building a new and modern National Veterans Home.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Rosebrock,  
Director, Old Veterans Guard



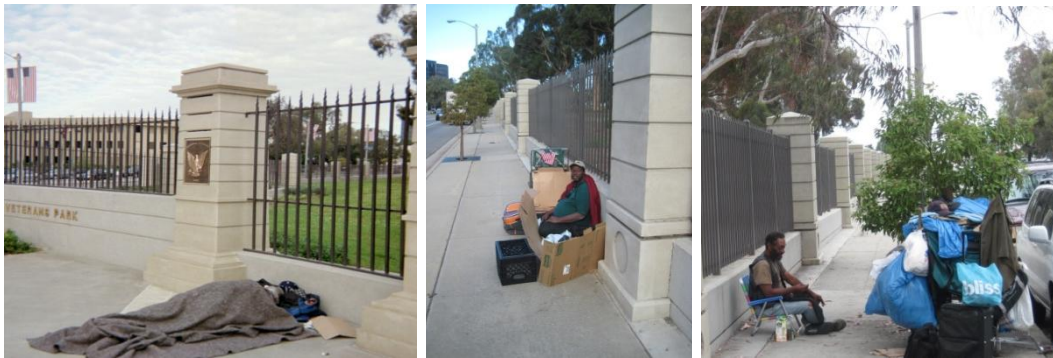
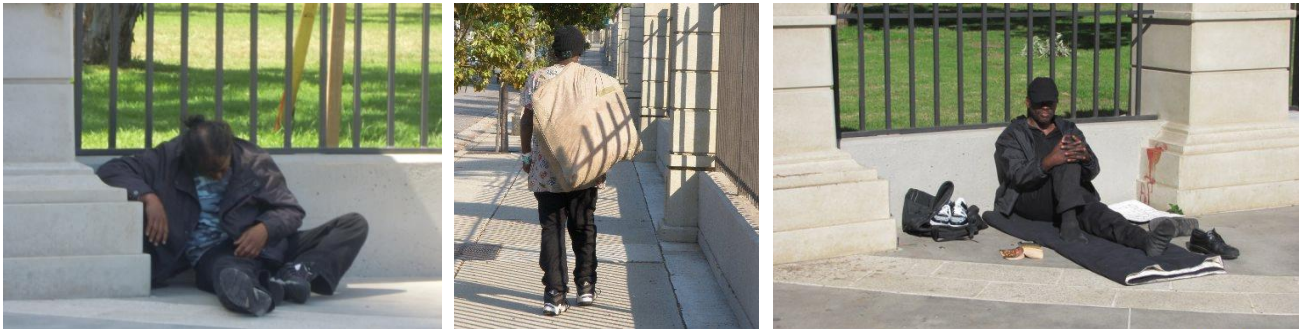
*Old Veterans Guard*

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS**

**President Obama**



**To Declare  
A State-of-Emergency for  
Homeless Veterans in Los Angeles**



**Homeless Veterans outside the Los Angeles National Veterans Home**

# State-of-Emergency



**Los Angeles has the largest Homeless Veteran population in the Nation. Paradoxically, Los Angeles also has the largest Veterans Home in the Nation.**



## **Homeless Veteran Humanitarian Relief Project**

**“BRING OUR HOMELESS VETERANS HOME”**

**Providing emergency housing and care for disabled and homeless Military Veterans at the Los Angeles National Veterans Home**



***“If you can't feed a hundred people,  
then feed just one.”***

**- Mother Teresa**

# **Homeless Veteran Outreach Crusade**

**RESCUE – RELIEF – REINFORCE – RE-ESTABLISH**

**Providing Provisional Housing and Benevolent Care  
at the Los Angeles National Veterans Home**

**PROPOSED**

**Welcome Home Reception Center**

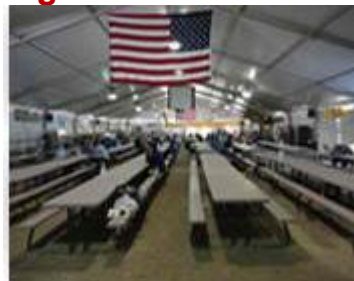


Armbruster Tentmaker

**Provisional Residency and Dining Halls**



Armbruster Tentmaker



IndustrialTent.com



## **HOMELESS VETERAN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROJECT “BRING OUR HOMELESS VETERANS HOME”**

- **RESCUE** – Residency through Welcome Home Transitional Team;
- **RELIEF** – Rest and Recuperation through provisional housing and benevolent care;
- **REINFORCE** – Restore well-being and future livelihood through professional support and career training;
- **RE-ESTABLISH** – Re-entry into society as productive citizens.

# Humanitarian Relief for 145,000 Vietnam Refugees

37 Years Later, Tens-of-Thousands of Vietnam War Veterans Are Still Homeless

After the fall of Saigon brought an end to the Vietnam War in 1975, our U.S. government welcomed 145,000 Vietnamese Refugees onto American soil and spent more than \$300 million to feed, clothe, shelter and re-settle them.

An estimated 900 Marines and civilians had worked six days erecting more than 1,000 tents and Quonset huts at Camp Pendleton Marine Base in Southern California that would provide 50,000 despondent Refugees with safe care and a hopeful future.



**One of Eight Vietnamese Refugee Tent Cities at Camp Pendleton, 1975**

Most all of the Refugees arrived without any money or personal possessions and very few spoke English. Nonetheless, they were compassionately sponsored by volunteer families, churches and corporations, and eventually assimilated into our society. The vast majority became productive U.S. citizens and many became leaders in their communities.

In addition to this humanitarian gesture of good will, our government also provides shelter, beds, meals, TV, recreation and healthcare for hardened criminals in our local, state and federal prisons, and offers the same safe and comfortable living conditions for violent thug terrorists at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

On the other hand, disabled and homeless Veterans who selflessly defended our nation have been forgotten and dispossessed by our own government and forced to live alone, homeless and hungry, in back-alley squalor.

Incredulously, while the Vietnamese Refugees were welcomed into our country, America's Veterans who had fought to defend them in their native homeland were insulted, chastised and ostracized when they returned home to their own native country.

The fact that Vietnamese refugees were given immediate attention and support decades ago while tens of thousands of our Vietnam War Veterans are still homeless and destitute is shameful beyond comprehension.

By the VA's own admission, 47% of today's homeless Veterans are from the Vietnam War era. Most of them are in now their 60's and 70's and many are in frail and declining health.

As a supposed moral and compassionate society, how can we allow the exclusively deeded property at the adjacent Los Angeles National Veterans Home to be leased for a public dog park, public community park, public golf course, public parking lots, private school grounds, carnivals, entertainment, used car storage, etc., while 20,000 disabled and disadvantaged Veterans are homeless and fending for their lives on the dangerous streets of Los Angeles?

The answer is simple. *We can't!*

If our government was able to provide shelter and care for 145,000 Vietnam Refugees 37 years ago and helped them to become productive individuals, then surely we can do the same today for 20,000 of our banished Veterans who have been exiled from their rightful and legal Home by the same U.S. government, while more and more Iraqi and Afghanistan War Veterans are becoming homeless.

Tragically, some would be safer fighting with their military unit in a war zone than trying to survive alone on the crime-ridden streets of Los Angeles.

It is our duty to demand that the Department of Veterans Affairs accept full responsibility and take immediate action to build emergency provisional housing for homeless Veterans on the sacred property that was deeded in their behalf nearly 125 years ago.

On behalf of all disabled and homeless Veterans in Los Angeles, this is to duly charge the President of the United States and members of Congress to enforce the promise in the Deed of 1888 and bring our homeless Veterans "Home" so they can safely and peacefully heal from the war injuries they suffered while defending our own safety and peace.

Correspondingly, it is imperative that President Obama declare Los Angeles a State-of-Emergency and direct Congress to re-appropriate the \$20 million previously designated for fixing up the disgraceful asylum-looking, rat-infested Building 209 and re-designate the funds for the immediate establishment of provisional housing and benevolent care on these sacred grounds and provide all measure of humanitarian relief and reinforcement for thousands of disabled and disadvantaged homeless Veterans.



**HOMELESS VETERAN**  
**HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROJECT**  
**"BRING OUR HOMELESS VETERANS HOME"**

# VA's Building 209 is a Rat-Infested National Disgrace

The Los Angeles National Veterans Home is the largest VA facility in the nation. Paradoxically, Los Angeles is also our Nation's capital for homeless Veterans.

On March 3, 1888, Jones P. Jones and Arcadia B. de Baker agreed to bequeath 600 acres of land to the Government of the United States to be held in Trust on behalf of America's Veterans. Two days later the Deed was ratified by all parties that would forever establish these grounds as a safe, sacred, and sovereign sanctuary for disabled and disadvantaged Veterans.

In compliance with an 1887 Act of Congress, the Veterans' land gift contains a restrictive covenant in the Deed that legally obligated the Federal Government "To locate, establish, construct, and permanently maintain a branch of said National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers."

This inviolable clause created a Charitable Trust that was to ensure America's Veterans would always have a safe and quiet place to call "Home" where they can heal from their military injuries with dignity.

The original "Home" consisted of magnificent Victorian-style Resident Halls with large verandas that overlooked beautifully landscaped gardens.



(1892 circa)



The peaceful and elegant Victorian structures of the 1880's survived for nearly a half-century before being demolished by the VA and replaced with a harsh, prison-looking fortress that still occupies a dark and shameful past.



(2012 circa)

The archaic structures that now cover the landscape of the National Veterans Home have been deceptively preserved as “historic” buildings by the Department of Interior’s National Park Services in partnership with a wealthy homeowner group. Let there be no misunderstanding; these are not “historic” buildings by any stretch of American patriotism.

The real history of these antiquated buildings represent some of America’s darkest days when disabled Veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea and the Vietnam Wars were abused and mistreated beyond belief, including experimenting on them with lobotomies and other inhumane and atrocious acts.

Moreover, the VA is promoting these desecrated buildings as “*heritage tourism*” and has shamefully granted the stewardship of the “entire property” to a wealthy homeowner group that operates under the ruse of being a Veterans organization.

Instead of honoring the Congressional Act and legal Deed, the Department of Veterans Affairs is turning the largest National Veterans Home in the nation over to the Department of Interior in partnership with a rich and powerful neighboring homeowner faction to promote a major tourist attraction and exploit this shameful past.

These so-called historic structures are dilapidated and unfit for human habitation, as clearly declared and defined by the VA's Regional Director of Public Relations:

On June 16, 2011, the ‘*Huffington Post*’ featured an article titled “*Homelessness In Los Angeles Drops -- But Rises 24 Percent Among Veterans.*”

**And while critics have pointed to several decaying buildings on the West L.A. campus as potential sites for expanded housing, the VA disputed that suggestion.**

***“We're not talking about an abandoned apartment building or something like that. We're talking about a building that's maybe 60 years old, infested with vermin, may have asbestos.***

***These are not places where someone could live, they're not safe seismically, they're not safe environmentally.”***

Dave Bayard, the VA's Regional Director of Public Relations,  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System,

So why are Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Henry Waxman allocating \$20 million to rehab one “historic” run-down, rat-infested dump to house 52 American Veterans at a cost of nearly \$400,000 per room, and it will not be ready for another two years?

And why is there a secretive movement afoot to rehab two other rat-infested “fixer-uppers,” Buildings 205 and 208, that will accommodate about a hundred homeless Veterans and will not be ready for another two-to-three years?

All three of these buildings must first get approval from the Secretary of the Department of Interior even though the structures are entrusted to the VA on behalf of America’s Veterans.

Who initiated and approved the Department of Interior to take over the National Veterans Home that has exiled more than 20,000 disabled and disabled Veterans by forcing them to live homeless and hungry in back-alley squalor and on skid row? This is criminal!

And why would anyone even think about wanting to house America’s Veterans in structures that the VA admits *“are not places where someone could live, they're not safe seismically, they're not safe environmentally.”* America does not treat our Veterans this way ... ever!

Instead of building new supportive housing for disabled and disadvantaged Veterans, the VA is funding a multi-billion dollar welfare-rent and food-stamp program to warehouse homeless Veterans in ramshackle apartments in seedy neighborhoods run by ruthless slum-lords.

On behalf of all disabled and homeless Veterans, the Old Veterans Guard calls for the only responsible and moral thing to do and that is to completely demolish Buildings 205, 208 and 209, along with all other antiquated and dysfunctional structures that have such a macabre past, and build a new and permanent Veterans Home in accordance with the Deed of 1888.

For now, the VA must provide emergency housing and care for 20,000 homeless Veterans.

In sum, the Old Veterans Guard respectfully requests President Obama to declare Los Angeles a State-of-Emergency by directing Congress to re-appropriate the \$20 million previously designated for remodeling the disgraceful and rat-infested Building 209 and re-designating the funds for the immediate establishment of provisional housing and benevolent care on these sacred grounds, and then begin the process of building a new and modern National Veterans Home.

# PROPOSED GRAND HOME AND GARDENS



Proposed conceptual design

After demolition of the existing obsolete buildings that have such a gruesome history, it's proposed that a new and modern Grand Home and Gardens be built on the sacred grounds of the Los Angeles National Veterans Home. The conceptual design for a new Home could be similar to the Merck Headquarters in New Jersey (above).

While previous plans called for a quad of individual high-rise towers that would take up less land space, a contiguous low-rise Home will bring about more unity and camaraderie with resident Veterans as they heal from their war injuries under one roof.

The Grand Home and Gardens will offer a peaceful setting amidst colorful landscaped gardens with waterfalls, streams and ponds for peace and tranquility. The open area inside the grounds of the Home will offer a secluded setting with tranquil gardens that closes out the hustle-bustle and noise of a busy city and surrounding traffic.

On the ground-level areas, there will be large Victorian verandas overlooking the gardens as a place for fellow Veterans to gather together – much like the original Soldier's Home in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

*The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics  
or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities.  
We need men who can dream of things that  
never were and ask  
"why not?".*

John F. Kennedy

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Presidential Declaration of State-of-Emergency for Homeless Veterans in Los Angeles**

**Whereas**, Los Angeles has the largest Homeless Veteran population in the Nation, and paradoxically, Los Angeles also has the largest Veterans Home in the Nation; and

**Whereas**, on March 2, 1887, the Forty-Ninth Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, assembled and approved an Act of Congress: *"That the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to locate, establish, construct, and permanently maintain a branch of said National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers to be by such Board located at such place in the States west of the Rocky Mountains as to said Board shall appear most desirable and advantageous"*; and

**Whereas**, Sec. 2, of the Congressional Act of 1887 stipulates: *"That all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who served in the regular and volunteer forces of the United States, and who are disabled by disease, wounds, or otherwise, and who have no adequate means of support, and by reason of such disability are incapable of earning their living, shall be entitled to be admitted to said home for disabled volunteer soldiers, subject to like regulations as they are now admitted to existing branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers"*; and

**Whereas**, One year after the Congressional Act was signed into law, John P. Jones and Arcadia B. de Baker agreed to give the United States Government 600 acres to be held in trust for a permanent National Soldiers Home in Los Angeles (Home) to solely benefit disabled and disadvantaged military Veterans; and

**Whereas**, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the U.S. Government's entrusted steward and the fiduciary administrator for the Home, which currently operates as the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and is the largest VA facility in the nation; and

**Whereas**, the VA has violated the Congressional Act and the legal Deed by facilitating a series of low-rent and rent-free "sharing agreements" and other arrangements with commercial and non-profit corporations for purposes other than benefiting Veterans, including, a public dog park, a public recreation park, public community park, public theaters, public golf course, public botanical gardens, a playground for a wealthy private school, collegiate baseball diamond, commercial car rental storage, etc.; and

**Whereas**, numerous buildings on the VA property have been vacant for decades and more than 40 are antiquated, obsolete and designated as "historic," and are under the control of the Department of Interior; and

**Whereas**, Thousands of disabled and disadvantaged Veterans have been exiled from use of the Home and forced to live homeless and hungry in Los Angeles under inhumane and unsafe conditions; and

**Whereas**, by the VA's own admission, 47% of today's homeless Veterans are from the Vietnam War era with many in their 60's, 70's and 80's, and in frail and declining health; and

**Whereas**, there are no plans to provide immediate shelter and care for homeless Veterans at the Home, even though this is a crisis of serious proportion by any measure; and

**Whereas**, Congressman Henry Waxman, who's Congressional District includes the Los Angeles VA, joined Senator Dianne Feinstein to appropriate \$20 million from Congress for remodeling Building 209 that has been vacant for decades and it will only provide housing for 52 when completed in two years; now therefore

**Be It Resolved**, the Homeless Veteran Humanitarian Relief Project respectfully requests the President of the United States to declare Los Angeles a State-of-Emergency and direct Congress to re-appropriate the \$20 million previously designated for remodeling Building 209 and re-designate the funds for the immediate establishment of provisional housing and benevolent care on these sacred grounds at the Home; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, the President of the United States and members of Congress shall direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to immediately construct provisional housing and provide all measure of humanitarian relief and reinforcement for thousands of disabled and disadvantaged homeless Veterans; and

**Be It Lastly Resolved**, that this Resolution be conveyed to President Barack Obama for prompt action to declare a State-of-Emergency for homeless Veterans in Los Angeles and copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to members of Congress for cooperative expedition.

**November 11, 2012**

**Robert L Rosebrock – Director, Old Veterans Guard  
Homeless Veteran Humanitarian Relief Project – Los Angeles, CA**