

Introduced by Senator Vidak

January 4, 2016

An act to add Section 1011.5 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans' homes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 806, as introduced, Vidak. Dr. Charlie Waters Memorial Veterans' Home.

Existing law establishes the Veterans' Home of California, under the administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including homes in Yountville and Barstow. Existing law also authorizes the Department of General Services, on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to acquire, design, equip, construct, and establish additional veterans' homes in other locations, including Fresno.

This bill would rename the veterans' home in the County of Fresno as the Dr. Charlie Waters Memorial Veterans' Home and would make specified findings of the Legislature regarding Dr. Waters' life.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Dr. Charlie Waters served his country as a member of the
- 4 United States Marine Corps from 1951 to 1958, including 13
- 5 months of combat in Korea between 1951 and 1952.
- 6 (b) Following his combat service, Dr. Waters was assigned to
- 7 the United States Embassy in Montevideo, Uruguay.

1 (c) Dr. Waters served on many boards, commissions, and
2 foundations, serving veterans and the entire community, including
3 the Fresno Marine Corps League, the Veterans Day Parade
4 Committee, the Fresno Veterans Home Foundation, the American
5 Legion, and Toys for Tots.

6 (d) Dr. Waters played a critical role in the establishment of the
7 Veterans' Home of California, Fresno, often testifying before the
8 Legislature to ensure adequate funding for the facility. Dr. Waters,
9 along with help from Chuck Parnell and George Sinopoli, paved
10 the road towards the ultimate opening of the Veterans Home
11 Located in Fresno.

12 (e) In addition to the contributions of Dr. Waters, Chuck Parnell,
13 and George Sinopoli, a large number of community members and
14 organizations dedicated their time and resources towards making
15 the Veterans home in Fresno a reality.

16 (f) The Veterans' Home of California, Fresno, opened on
17 October 18, 2013, and includes a bronze bust of Dr. Waters, which
18 was unveiled on September 3, 2014, exactly one year before his
19 death.

20 (g) Dr. Waters died September 3, 2015, after a hard-fought battle
21 with cancer. Yet, even while battling this disease, he continued
22 his fight for housing and services for veterans in the central valley
23 and across the nation.

24 SEC. 2. Section 1011.5 is added to the Military and Veterans
25 Code, to read:

26 1011.5. The veterans' home in the County of Fresno, authorized
27 pursuant to Section 15819.60 of the Government Code, shall be
28 named the Dr. Charlie Waters Memorial Veterans' Home.