

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 2, 2016

SENATE BILL

No. 806

Introduced by Senator Vidak

(Principal coauthors: Senators Cannella and Fuller)

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Bigelow, Mathis, and Salas)

(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Glazer, Moorlach, and Nguyen)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brough and Lackey)

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 amended, 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.

8 (c) Dr. Waters served on many boards, commissions, and
9 foundations, serving veterans and the entire community, including
10 the Fresno Marine Corps League, the Veterans Day Parade
11 Committee, the Fresno Veterans Home Foundation, the American
12 Legion, and Toys for Tots.

13 (d) Dr. Waters played a critical role in the establishment of the
14 Veterans' Home of California, Fresno, often testifying before the
15 Legislature to ensure adequate funding for the facility. Dr. Waters,
16 along with help from Chuck Parnell and George Sinopoli, paved
17 the road towards the ultimate opening of the ~~Veterans Home~~
18 ~~located~~ *veterans' home located* in Fresno.

19 (e) In addition to the contributions of Dr. Waters, Chuck Parnell,
20 and George Sinopoli, a large number of community members and
21 organizations dedicated their time and resources towards making
22 the ~~Veterans~~ *veterans'* home in Fresno a reality.

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

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

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

33 1011.5. The veterans' home in the County of Fresno, authorized
34 pursuant to Section 15819.60 of the Government Code, shall be
35 named the Dr. Charlie Waters Memorial Veterans' Home.

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