

March 2010

# women vets newsletter

## *Special Edition*

### Origin of Women's History Month

Kiera Zetkin, a German woman, was the first to organize an International Women's Day on March 19, 1911. Zetkin was inspired by working-class American women and wished to have a day that would commemorate the strength of women everywhere, as well as women's rights. Although at first well received, the celebration of International Women's Day began to dwindle as the decades went on and was not rekindled until the women's movement of the 1960s. It was during this time that women began to look back on their contributions throughout history and began to strongly feel that they too deserved acknowledgment. In March 1978, female historians took on the task of integrating the accomplishments of women into history by promoting the celebration of Women's History Week. The week quickly grew popular, and in 1987, Congress proclaimed March as National Women's History Month.

### Governor Schwarzenegger Proclaims Women's Military History Week, March 15–21, 2010

This proclamation is always well received by women veterans across the state as a symbol of the Governor's support for and appreciation of their military service. Governor Schwarzenegger issued this proclamation last year. The 2010 proclamation will be posted on the CalVet and Governor's website soon.





## Shrivers' "Free Day at the Museum"

On March 4, 2010, First Lady Maria Shriver held a special "Free Day at the Museum" at the California Museum in honor of Women's History Month. California is home to nearly 167,000 women veterans and so many military families across our state have demonstrated such courage and resilience in a manner which is truly inspiring. A very special Military Moment dessert reception was held in their honor.

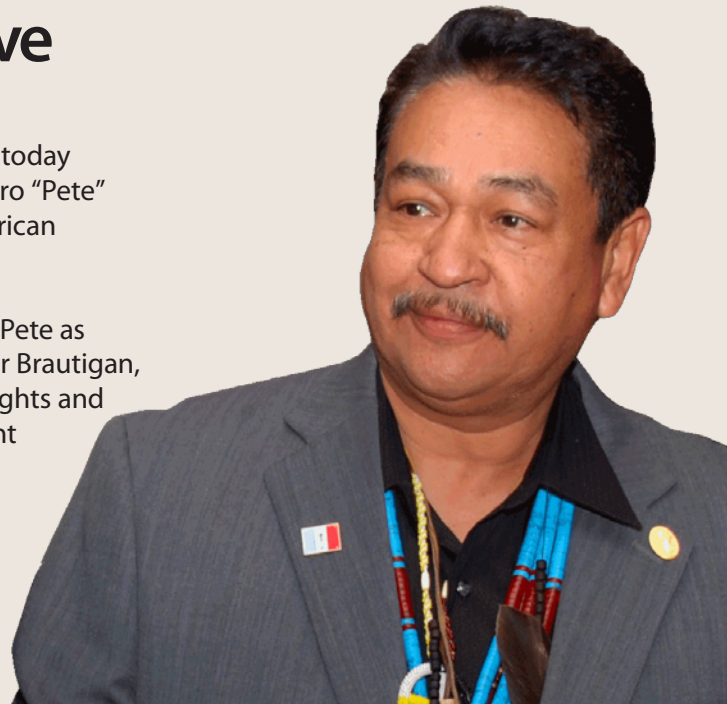
During this Military Moment reception, the First Lady made the exciting announcement that Talbot's, a multi-channel retailer of women's apparel, shoes and accessories known for modern classic style, has partnered with CalVet in a wonderful partnership that will serve California women returning from military service.

Talbot's will make available gift cards to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom women veterans to help them dress for success as they re-enter civilian life. Hopefully, this program can be kept ongoing by donations by shopper to Talbot's online store.

## Pedro "Pete" Molina Sworn In As Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs

Nearly 200 people, most from various tribes throughout California, today braved the cold and wet weather to witness the swearing-in of Pedro "Pete" Molina as the first-in-the-nation Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs.

"We are very happy that Governor Schwarzenegger has appointed Pete as Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs," said Roger Brautigan, Secretary for Veterans Affairs. "His long history of working for the rights and recognition due to Native American veterans make Pete an excellent choice to assist the California Department of Veterans Affairs in its efforts to reach this important population."



## Governor Schwarzenegger Appoints Brigadier General Mary J. Kight Adjutant General of the California National Guard

A couple months ago, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Brigadier General Mary J. Kight as the first female adjutant general of the California National Guard and first African-American female National Guard adjutant general in the nation.

"Brigadier General Mary Kight is a proven courageous, loyal and honorable leader. She has a long and distinguished history of service to our state and nation and I am proud to have her as the first female adjutant general of our military forces here in California," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "I am confident that with General Kight's leadership, the California National Guard will continue to be fully prepared, standing ready and able to assist our local communities and our country when called upon in times of emergency."

General Kight has served the California National Guard for nearly 25 years. She has been assistant adjutant general since 2006 and previously held the positions of assistant adjutant general, air for the California National Guard Headquarters from 2004 to 2006, 201st Mission Support Squadron detach commander for all members on Title 10 from 2001 to 2004, 144th Mission Support Group commander in Fresno from 1999 to 2004 and first aircraft generation squadron commander for the 144th Fighter Wing from 1994 to 1998. Prior to that, Kight was an aircraft maintenance officer from 1990 to 1994, a field maintenance officer from 1987 to 1990 and an avionics maintenance officer from 1984 to 1987. She was a wing executive officer for the Nebraska Air National Guard from 1981 to 1984 and served the U.S. Air Force from 1974 to 1981.

"I whole-heartedly share in the Governor's commitment to public safety and ensuring that our armed forces are well-trained and equipped to provide support and assistance here in California and abroad at a moment's notice," said General Kight. "I am honored to take on this new position serving the California National Guard as adjutant general and I look forward to using my knowledge and experience to uphold California's military forces' outstanding legacy of service."



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MARCH

**March 10**

**Yountville Women Veterans  
10th Anniversary Celebration**  
3:00pm - 5:00pm  
Yountville, Ca

**March 17**

**Military Women History  
Week Program**  
Sacramento VA Medical Center  
Mather, Ca

**March 17-18**

**2nd Annual Shout!  
Art by Women Veterans**  
6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Contact: Eric Norman  
enorman@stp-sf.org  
San Francisco, Ca

**March 20**

**2nd Annual Women in Military  
History Week Celebration**  
12:00pm - 4:00pm  
Contact: Kathy Dieden  
kdieden@yahoo.com  
Alameda, Ca

**March 25**

**2nd Annual Salute to Women  
Veterans**  
5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Contact: owp@ceo.sccgov.org  
(408) 299-5135  
Santa Clara, Ca

**5th Annual Military Women's  
Information Seminar**

8:30am - 1:00pm  
Contact: (714) 687-4832  
Santa Ana, Ca

## VA Launches “Her Story” Program During National Women’s History Month

March is Women’s History Month and this year’s theme is “Writing Women Back into History.” The theme recognizes the important contributions women have made in our lives and in the success of our Nation, and the importance of capturing and telling the stories of the women behind them.

To commemorate those lasting and profound contributions, VA is launching an extended campaign in March that will celebrate the accomplishments of women Veterans through the “Her Story” program. The goal of “Her Story” is to encourage VA program offices and facilities to acknowledge and honor the service of women Veterans. VA’s Center for Women Veterans is working with the National Foundation of Women Legislators (NFWL) to encourage recognition of women Veterans during March in every state of the Union through the “Her Story” campaign. Women state legislators are working with veterans service organizations to have states issue proclamations in March recognizing the role of women veterans and supporting VA efforts to acknowledge them and provide them benefits and health care.

VA Central Office will kick off “Her Story” on March 11, with a Salute to Women Veterans and Women Veteran employees. The Center for Women Veterans has asked women VACO Veteran employees to submit their photos and military history summaries to be shared during the course of the campaign. The Center encourages VA facilities across the nation to find ways to share the stories of their local women Veterans with special events, such as exhibits highlighting women Veterans, showing the “Lioness” documentary film (available in VA Libraries), and sharing written narratives in newsletters and other local media.

The Center also asks that VA facilities encourage women Veterans to submit their oral histories to the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial (<http://www.womensmemorial.org/index.html>) and the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>). Both Web sites provide guidance in offering oral histories and background information on Veterans.

The VA “Her Story” campaign will continue with special events on Women’s Equality Day in August and Veterans Day in November.

## save the date!

**3rd Annual CalVet Women Veterans Conference**  
October 7-8, 2010  
Clovis Veterans Memorial Building  
808 4th Street  
Clovis, Ca 93612

