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“MAJOR DISTRESS CALL!”



U.S. Flag Code - Sec. 8.

- a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

By Robert L. Rosebrock, Staff Writer

Veterans' property at the Los Angeles National Veterans Home is in extreme danger and so are the lives of 20,000 homeless Veterans who are forced to live on the dangerous streets of LA, even though this is their rightful “Home.”

The “Old Veterans Guard” is vigorously protesting the abuse and misuse of this sacred land that was deeded 122 years ago for Veterans use only. Incredulously, this multi-billion dollar property has been pillaged and plundered by private, non-Veteran, special-interest groups, and it's been conveniently facilitated by the Department of Veterans Affairs with “rent free” predatory leases while Veterans services are neglected and underfunded.

“Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbour's House”

How could this possibly happen to sacred land at the National Home of those who have defended our nation's homeland? In brief, some very rich neighboring elitists have coveted this land for decades and have deceptively and systematically annexed it for their own personal use and benefit.

This egregious land confiscation has been conducted behind closed doors at the “highest levels of government ... including the congressional delegation,” and it's always done under the ruse of “honoring our veterans.” As a result of this voracity and political corruption, there are thousands of homeless Veterans whose lives are in extreme danger.

The U.S. Flag Code allows for the American Flag to be displayed with the union down when life or property are in extreme danger. It's very clear that both Veterans property and Veterans lives are in extreme danger and this peril must cease, posthaste.

Take heed: This is a “Major Distress Call” for America's Military Veterans to unify and reclaim our property at the National Home ... and *Bring Our Homeless Veterans* “HOME.”

“For the Enjoyment of the Entire Community”

During the mid-20th century, Nikita Khrushchev, the ruthless Russian dictator of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, infamously declared: *“What’s ours is ours and what’s yours is negotiable.”*

A half-century later in America where free-citizens have prospered beyond imagination, a very wealthy homeowner group in West Los Angeles is not content with how much they already have, thanks to the men and women of our Military who pledged their lives for the safety and benefit of all others. Instead, this cabal covets what little property America’s Veterans have left at their National Home.

Not satisfied with the ever-increasing value of their multi-million dollar mega-mansions, these neighboring Plutocrats want to enhance their property values even more by preventing homeless Veterans to reside and rehabilitate at their own exclusively deeded “Home.” Correspondingly, these fat-cats want to “beautify” the entryway into their ritzy enclave by annexing this sacred land for Veterans to heal from war, and convert it into a public park *“for the enjoyment of the entire community.”*

After the rogue homeowner group annexed 16 acres of Veterans land for a public park, they boasted that this would *“Demonstrate the positive community impact of reclamation of open space for public use, setting a precedent for discussion about the remaining federal property.”* The so-called “open space” is Veterans property deeded 122 years ago *“to be permanently maintained as a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.”*

Veterans Beware! When these ruthless and covetous ingrates want our land, they do not negotiate! No ... they just selfishly take what they want, regardless of the needs of those who have selflessly defended our nation’s freedom and independence, and they take it “rent free.”

The Have’s and the Have-Nots

How much more ungrateful can the have’s become at the expense of the have not’s, particularly those who made it possible for the haves to have what they have?

Compare the change of times with today’s marauding neighbors and the accommodating politicians to 122 years ago when Southern California land owners Arcadia B. de Baker, a wealthy widow who lived in neighboring Santa Monica and John P. Jones was a U.S. Senator from Nevada. Both of these American patriots generously gave their land for the benefit of those who served our country on behalf of their fellow citizens.

Compare how depraved and cynical our society has become where self-serving homeowners and corrupt politicians now take Veterans’ land away. While Veterans have always been an easy prey for the sleazy, heretofore the scumbags at least waited outside the gates of the Veterans Home to confiscate what did not belong to them.

On March 15, 1904, the “Los Angeles Daily Times” featured a story with the lead sentence declaring:

“With wolfish eagerness, a horde of thugs, gamblers, prostitutes and sellers of evil liquors lay in wait yesterday at the very gates of the Soldiers’ Home, for the pension money paid in large amounts to the old veterans last Saturday.”

“Robbing Veterans of Pensions Money”



“Hungry Sharks Lie in Wait at Very Gates of Soldiers’ Home”

Fast-Forward to 2010

One hundred six years later, the political whores and VA property pimps are inside the gates of the National Home turning tricks with Veterans' land and gambling with their disability and healthcare money, while needy Veterans remain homeless and locked out of the very gates to their lawfully deeded Home.



Homeless Veterans Stay Out!

Today, hungry and homeless Veterans live outside the chained and locked gates of their National Home while the hungry human sharks feast inside

For safety, homeless Veterans are often forced to take refuge next to the ostentatious multi-million dollar majestic wrought iron fence. Adding even more insult to this emotional wound, the fence and front gates were built with Veterans healthcare money to beautify the entryway into Brentwood, one of the wealthiest ZIP codes in the nation.

A Homemade Shelter Outside the Veterans Home



A Disabled homeless Veteran creates temporary shelter and raises his own "Distress" flag outside the largest VA in the nation.



Homeless Veteran's "DISTRESS" Call



A Sign of the Time



A Homeless Veteran Blending in With the Million-Dollar Brentwood Beautification Fence

The Brentwood “Wall of Shame”



While some homeless Veterans sleep outside the locked front gates, others take up residency alongside the multi-million dollar wrought iron fence along San Vicente Boulevard leading into the entryway of upscale Brentwood.

On March 9, 2008, at our first Sunday Rally to “Save Our Veterans Land,” Sue Doyle, a staff writer for the Los Angeles *“Daily News,”* wrote a detailed article and reported:

“Outside the facility some veterans who don’t call it home live in campers parked on San Vicente, while other sleep in grungy, urine-smelling blankets on the sidewalk.”

Two years later, the number of homeless Veterans sleeping on the sidewalk has increased, but the campers are gone because the neighboring Plutocrats, led by open-space-beautification extremist Sue Young, who considered Veterans’ vehicles an *“eyesore and distraction from the beauty of the majestic wrought iron fence.”* She used her cabal’s wealth and power to pressure Los Angeles County to ban vans, campers and RVs from parking overnight on San Vicente Boulevard adjacent to her pretentious fence.

A Double-Ugly Reminder



The front gates to the Los Angeles National Veterans Home are double-chained and double-padlocked, which is a double-ugly reminder that Veterans are not welcome on their own property.

A Disabled Homeless Veteran On the Wrong Side of the Fence



The "open space" behind the front gates to the Los Angeles National Veterans Home is the 16 acres that Sue Young's homeowner group controls, rent-free, and plans to build a public community park. Disabled Veterans belong on the inside of these chained and locked gates and Sue Young's cabal belongs on the outside.

Veterans Arrested For "Loitering" on Their Own Property

James Miller, a homeless, Disabled Vietnam War Veteran, was given a criminal citation for "loitering" by the VA police when he was caught sitting upright in a chair and resting his tired body in the lobby of the Los Angeles VA Wadsworth Hospital, even though this land was promised "*to be permanently maintained as a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*"

James shouldn't be homeless, nor should any other Veteran in Los Angeles when they already have a "Home."

A homeless Veteran sleeping at the National Veterans Home is not a crime. The real crime is that Veterans are being denied residency at their National Home while wealthy homeowners who live in multi-million dollar mega-mansions want to turn these sacred grounds into a National Public Park.



Checkers and Camaraderie

Healing from War

In the above 1890 photo, Disabled Veterans from the Civil War engage in a friendly game of checkers as they try to heal from the travesty of war on the hallowed grounds of the National Home in Los Angeles.

These Veterans shared a camaraderie that was exclusive to them and their honorable duty as Soldiers.

Before the VA came into existence in 1930, Veterans gathered together at the Home and talked things out amongst themselves. They didn't need a bureaucratic "case manager" who never served in the military, let alone served in combat, to probe into their personal lives and then fill them up with brain-numbing drugs.

In the "good ole days," Veterans could sit alone under a tree in quietude and privacy or be with fellow Veterans to rehabilitate and transcend the devastation of combat. They worked on their issues on their own terms at the Home without a probing and intrusive government bureaucracy.

The Real Criminals!

Today, self-serving neighbors who never served in the military are allowed to drive through this sacred land to use as a shortcut; to let their dogs run loose, go for a stroll, jog, ride bicycles, play golf and whatnot.

The only restrictions are against homeless Veterans wanting to sit under a tree to catch up on a little sleep. This is considered "loitering" by the overly zealous VA police, and if a small group of Veterans wanted to get together for a friendly game of checkers, they'd be cited for an "unauthorized assembly."

Make no mistake: We have some very, very sick people running the VA and it is they who are the real criminals, not homeless and/or Disabled Veterans trying to find refuge on their own property.

In fact, it is the VA bureaucrats and wealthy neighbors who are trespassing on Veterans land!

Veterans have one word for all of them: Vamoose!

Meanest City in the Nation for the Homeless

While homeless Veterans are cited for loitering inside the largest VA in the nation, on the outside they try to survive on the dangerous streets of Los Angeles, which is considered to be the "meanest city in the nation for the homeless," according to the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and the National Coalition for the Homeless.

According to Department of Veterans Affairs, roughly 131,000 of the nation's 24 million veterans may be homeless on any given night, and about twice as many are homeless each year.

General Erick K. Shinseki, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, has declared:

"No one who has served this nation as veterans should ever be living on the streets."

Thank you Mr. Secretary, but apparently your West LA VA bureaucrats didn't get the Memo because homeless Veterans are considered to be loitering or trespassing on their own property and are forced to live on the streets.

Not only is Los Angeles the meanest city in the nation for the homeless, but Los Angeles also has the meanest VA in the nation for abusing and harassing homeless Veterans on their own property.

And when fellow Veterans in their 60s, 70s, and 80s protest against this dastardly treatment, the bureaucrats send the VA police outside to harass, intimidate and issue false arrest citations for peacefully demonstrating and hanging the American Flag with the union down as a “Distress Call.”

Build a Veterans Tent City

There should never be a homeless Veteran in Los Angeles. The so-called “sharing agreement” that the VA has with a wealthy homeowner group for a public park on Veterans property must be rescinded in its entirety and those 16 acres used for temporary shelter with a Veterans Tent City until more reasonable housing can be arranged.

If VA asset manager Ralph Tillman can lease Veterans land for a “Celebrity Carnival Fundraiser” with a vast array of tents on these 16 acres, then surely he can put up a host of tents as temporary shelter for our homeless Veterans.



The VA's Ralph Tillman makes a mockery of homeless Veterans with these “carnival tents” for a non-Veteran fund-raiser.

Take Time to Smell the Corruption

The installation of numerous large tents for an annual “Celebrity Carnival Fundraiser” on Veterans land is simply disgraceful – and the proceeds from the \$1,000 per person fundraiser do not go to Veterans.

Something really stinks here! The absurd notion that Veteran campers and vans adjacent to their property would be an “eyesore” to the wealthy neighbors is a crock of corruption, particularly when the fat-cat neighbors created this carnival eyesore inside on Veterans land, while Veterans remain homeless on the outside.

Turning the Veterans Home into a celebrity carnival is stealing the valor of every man and woman who has worn the uniform! It’s time to stop this greed and corruption and sweep the Veterans Home clean.

Less Means More

There's been a steady proliferation of non-Veteran, non-profit organizations that are weaseling their way into controlling more and more of Veterans land at both the Los Angeles VA and the Sepulveda VA in LA's San Fernando Valley, including numerous other VA's all across America.

These so-called "enhanced use" or “enhanced sharing” lease agreements with long-term privileged deals are an illegal scam to steal from Veterans.

There is absolutely nothing in any of these land-heist deals that benefit America's Veterans and everything is for the benefit of non-Veteran special interest groups. Nonetheless, they are facilitated by VA bureaucrats and powerful politicians, and it is always done under the insulting guise of "honoring our veterans."

Make no mistake; there’s a distinct parallel with the loss of Veterans land and the increase of homeless Veterans. In brief, less Veterans’ land at their “Home,” means more homeless Veterans on the streets of Los Angeles.

There’s Only One True “Sharing Agreement”

The predatory “sharing agreements” that VA bureaucrat Ralph Tillman has egregiously used as a “rent free” vehicle to satisfy the “wants” of the greedy fat-cats at the expense of Veterans’ needs are criminal.

The only true “Sharing Agreement” is jointly called the 1887 Act of Congress and the Land Grant Deed of 1888, and the rent is not free.

This noble Sharing Agreement has been passed down and shared generation-to-generation with America’s Military Veterans for more than 120 years, until recent years.

Nothing on This Sacred Land is Free!

The hallowed property at the National Home has been paid for in Veterans’ blood. This is their “Promised Land,” guaranteed “*to be permanently maintained as a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*” It’s confirmed in the Deed of 1888 and reinforced by a Congressional Act of 1887.

Tragically and shamelessly, this sacred Promise has been broken and violated over and over by smug elitists who claim this land as an entitlement to be used for their own benefit at the expense of America’s Veterans.

There has already been a terrible price paid for this land and some have paid an arm and a leg to be a Member of this exclusive Club. Sometimes the payment is non-ending and compounded through serious pain, misery and heartache. Some have paid the ultimate price and are buried on these sacred grounds.

There is absolutely nothing in the Grant Deed and Congressional Act that even remotely provides for a public park, a carnival, a private school playground, a dog park, used-car storage lot, a bus parking lot, a community cultural center, open or green space, or anything else that the covetous public wants to use for their personal benefit.

This is a Veterans’ HOME and nothing else! Yet there are 20,000 homeless Veterans in Los Angeles County.

To those who have aided and abetted in this most criminal of crimes, be forewarned that your crime spree is coming to an abrupt halt.

For more than two years, we've stood at the busiest intersection in West Los Angeles with our 15 foot Banner that says: "Save Our Veterans' Land" and you've harassed, intimidated and violated our Constitutional Rights to protest your greed and corruption.

The Old Veterans Guard has drawn a line and boldly announced: "No more broken Promises! No more stolen land! No more stolen valor! And no more violating our Civil Rights!"

Now we're marching forward!

Our message is concise and precise:

- **Get off our land voluntarily or face legal eviction!**
- **Our Deed is the "Law of the Land," not your wealth and power!**

No Veteran Left Behind

The Land Grant Deed to the Veterans property is as sacred as the United States Constitution that each pledged to protect and defend when they raised their right hand and solemnly swore: "I am prepared to give my life for my country."

Like all those who serve in the Military, each pledged to make the ultimate sacrifice for the benefit of their fellow citizens.

So, instead of building a public park that benefits neighboring homeowners while homeless Veterans are left behind on the streets, let's open the front gates to their rightful Home and give them a chance at starting anew. That's certainly a very small sacrifice to make for the very big debt that is owed for our freedom and independence.

"EXTREME DANGER OF LIFE AND PROPERTY"



Homeless and hungry Veterans sleep on the outside of the chained and padlocked front gates while the VA welcomes a non-Veteran "Celebrity Carnival Fundraiser" inside ... on Veterans sacred land.



This IS desecration

A \$1-a-year, off-leash dog park on Veterans sacred land for wealthy neighbors while 20,000 Veterans are homeless in Los Angeles IS flagrant desecration.



This IS NOT desecration

Hanging the American Flag in “Distress” because of this atrocious desecration of Veterans property IS NOT desecration in the slightest. It’s a Moral Responsibility!

Let there be no misunderstanding: Hanging the American Flag with the union down as a “Distress Call” is not desecration, as some VA bureaucrats and other misinformed individuals have foolishly proclaimed.

Perhaps at no other time in modern-day history has any group had the right to hang ‘Ole Glory’ with the union down in a call of “Distress” than currently, because the very men and women who have defended our Nation’s home land are now having their National Home land stolen away.



Rees Lloyd, Past Commander of District 21 of the American Legion holds the American Flag in “Distress” while standing in front of three more U.S. Flags with the union down outside the front gates of the largest VA in the nation.

The American Legion is considered one of the foremost authorities on American Flag etiquette, so check their own website, <http://www.legion.org/flag/code>, and scroll down to § 8. Respect for flag, (a) *The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property*

It's our duty ... our responsibility, to hang the American Flag with the union down under these conditions, and those who think otherwise are giving aid in comfort to the enemies who have facilitated the giveaway of Veterans' sacred land. It's that simple. Holding on to your false opinions about 'Ole Glory' hanging in "Distress" while Veterans land is being abused and misused and 20,000 Veterans are homeless ... is extremely disrespectful and irresponsible.

"Major Distress Call!" -- Attend the Veterans Grand Rally

On June 13, 2010, Walt Disney Company will once again be the title sponsor of a "Celebrity Carnival Fundraiser" on Veterans sacred land while homeless Veterans continue to sleep on the outside of the locked gates. Whether they call it a carnival, picnic, or whatever, it's on Veterans' land. Why don't they hold it at Disneyland?

June 13, 2010, will be celebrated as the first anniversary of the Old Veterans Guard hanging the American Flag in "Distress" because Veterans property and the lives of 20,000 homeless Veterans are still in extreme danger.

The Old Veterans Guard is issuing a "Major Distress Call" and holding a "Veterans Grand Rally" to staunchly proclaim: *Bring Our Homeless Veterans "HOME."* Please join this noble cause.

BRING OUR HOMELESS VETERANS

"HOME"



What: "Major Distress Call" -- Veterans Grand Rally

When: Sunday, June 13, 2010 – 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Where: Northeast corner of Wilshire and San Vicente Boulevards, outside the Gates to the National Veterans Home, aka West Los Angeles VA Healthcare System, adjacent to the community of Brentwood, CA 90049

Why: To Bring Our Homeless Veterans "HOME." There are an estimated 20,000 homeless Veterans in Los Angeles, yet they've been locked out of their rightful "Home."

Who: Everyone that loves freedom and independence and appreciates the sacrifices of America's Military Veterans who have made it all possible.

Veterans Sunday Rally



Steve Palmer, an 87-year old Disabled World War II Veteran holds his American Flag in the Distress mode while displaying his protest sign at a Sunday Rally on the corner of Wilshire and San Vicente Boulevards.

GOD BLESS AMERICA and THE VETERANS REVOLUTION!