

## Vidak proposes Senate bill to rename Veterans Home for late advocate Charlie Waters

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State Sen. Andy Vidak introduced legislation Wednesday to rename the Veterans Home of California in Fresno, the “Dr. Charlie Waters Memorial Veterans’ Home.”

Waters, who died in September at the age of 82, played a significant role in the establishment of the Fresno Veterans home by testifying before the state Legislature for adequate funding for the facility.

The Veterans Home of California in Fresno is a 300-bed, long-term care facility located on 30 acres. The Veterans Home opened in October 2013 and currently offers assisted-living level of care, skilled nursing, and has future plans to offer memory care.

“Charlie was a tireless and passionate champion for building a home for our veterans in Fresno,” Vidak said in a prepared statement. “Charlie, along with Chuck Parnell and George Sinopoli, and dozens of community members and organizations, dedicated endless hours and resources to make the Veterans Home in Fresno a reality.”

The contributions of Chuck Parnell and George Sinopoli also are recognized in the language of Senate Bill 806.

Waters was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951 to 1958, including 13 months combat in Korea. Following his combat service, he was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Montevideo, Uruguay.

He served on veterans and community boards, commissions and foundations, including the Fresno Marine Corps League, the Veterans Day Parade Committee, the Fresno Veterans Home Foundation, the American Legion and Toys for Tots.

“Dr. Waters’ advocacy for improving the lives of veterans throughout the Central Valley, California and the nation and his legacy will forever be embedded in the beautiful Veterans Home that sits in Fresno,” wrote Central California Veterans Home Support Foundation members following Dr. Waters’ death last year. He was president of the foundation.

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