

*Jan. 11, 2012*

*Washington D.C.* – President Obama recently signed a bipartisan law that, thanks to the efforts of Rep. Jerry McNerney, will protect East Bay Stand Down from devastating funding cuts. East Bay Stand Down is a biennial event held in Pleasanton to provide services to veterans, many of whom are homeless. The event, which takes place over a series of days at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, connects veterans to medical, dental, mental health, and employment services, among others.

“As the war in Iraq comes to a close, it is even more important that we are doing everything we can to provide the resources that our veterans earned and count on,” said Rep. McNerney.

Many key services offered at East Bay Stand Down are provided by members of the Army and Navy Reserve. At past Stand Down events, members of the Army and Navy Reserve offered medical care and dental, optometry and mental health services to hundreds of veterans.

When the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 1540, Rep. McNerney's efforts became a true success. In 2011, as the House first considered H.R. 1540, Rep. McNerney added an amendment to protect funding for East Bay Stand Down and similar programs. His amendment stopped provisions that would have slashed funding for the program.

As the bill moved through Congress, McNerney championed the funding for East Bay Stand Down. The efforts of Rep. McNerney helped to prevent new limitations on funding for Innovating Readiness Training projects, thereby protecting East Bay Stand Down and dozens of other projects across the country from devastating cuts.

“The Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley would like to acknowledge the initiative of Congressman Jerry McNerney. Without this important military support, we would not be able to offer the range or level of services, particularly in the critical medical fields, to these most deserving homeless Bay Area veterans,” said Jerry Yahiro, Director of East Bay Stand Down.

“Our service men and women have fought to protect our country and way of life. By helping to preserve the funding for East Bay Stand Down, we are making good on our responsibility to provide for these men and women,” said Rep. McNerney.