



**NEVADA COUNTY**  
**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
**AGENCY**

*Michael Heggarty, MFT*  
Agency Director

**Department of Social Services**

**Mike Dent, MPA**  
Department of Social Services  
Director

950 Maidu Ave., PO Box 1210 Nevada City, CA 95959  
Ave., Ste 202 Truckee, CA 96161

Telephone (530) 265-1340  
Telephone (530) 582-7803

FAX (530) 265-9860 10075 Levon  
FAX (530) 582-7729

## **NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** May 10, 2016

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Mike Dent**

**SUBJECT:** Approve Designation of Kevin Edwards as the County Veterans' Services Officer (VSO), effective April 25, 2016.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the recommended action

**FUNDING:** The position will be funded by current department budget dollars.

**BACKGROUND:** It is requested that the Board designate Kevin Edwards, as the County Veterans' Services Officer, effective April 25, 2016. This designation is important to our veteran population, as the local Veterans Office is nearly always the first step for a veteran in need of information / services. This has been the case since the veterans' service office system was created more than 65 years ago to serve and support veterans.

Mr. Edwards most recently held a temporary part-time position with the County as an Airport Service Worker II for Nevada County's Airport. As the County Veterans' Services Officer, Mr. Edwards would have responsibility for planning, supervising and administering the programs and operations of the County's Veterans' Office, overseeing and participating in securing the rights and benefits for veterans, dependents and beneficiaries in accordance with federal, state and local regulations and program guidelines. Duties would also include coordinating veterans' program with other County programs, outside agencies and public and private organizations.

A native of Kissimmee, Florida, Kevin enlisted in the United States Navy in 1990 at the age of 17. Following completion of basic training at Recruit Training Command and Naval Training Center in Orlando, Florida, he reported to his first tour of duty with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 4 in Patuxent River, MD. His fleet assignments included Attack Squadron 35 and Helicopter Support Squadron 8. He completed three deployments in the Mediterranean serving aboard the USS Saratoga, the USS Detroit, and the USS Supply.

As a Naval Air crewman, Kevin flew as a Crew Chief in the H-46 Sea Knight providing vertical replenishment to ships at sea. After his tour as a Crew Chief, he transitioned to fixed wing aircraft and became qualified as a Flight Engineer in the E-6B, the Navy's largest aircraft, providing a vital communications link to the National Command Authority and the nuclear triad.

Kevin holds an Associates of Science Degree and is currently working on his Bachelor's Degree with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Additionally he is a graduate of the Senior Enlisted Academy and has earned his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist, Naval Air crewman, and Master Training Specialist designations.

His decorations include the Air Medal (Flight/Strike), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (6 awards), and various unit and campaign awards.

After 20 years of active duty service, Kevin retired in 2010 at the rank of US Navy Senior Chief to spend more time with his family. Kevin currently lives in Grass Valley with his wife (also a Navy Veteran), and their two daughters who currently attend local public schools.

During Mr. Edwards' tenure of service in the Navy he provided guidance on benefits available to service members separating from the military. Additionally, he was trained and qualified as a Casualty Assistance Calls Officer who provides assistance to beneficiaries of fallen service members. He also served on the Color Guard for fallen active duty service members and represented the Navy at funerals for veterans when requested by the veteran's family. It is recommended that the Board approve this designation, as the Department believes Mr. Edwards will be a great asset to the community as the County's designated Veterans' Services Officer.

**Item Initiated and Approved by: Mike Dent, Director of Social Services**