

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Reaches Milestone

JANET GUAN
Copy Editor

On Oct. 29, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that they have guaranteed 21 million home loans since the start of their Home Loan Guaranty program. The program is part of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the "G.I. Bill of Rights," which has guaranteed benefits for veterans since its establishment.

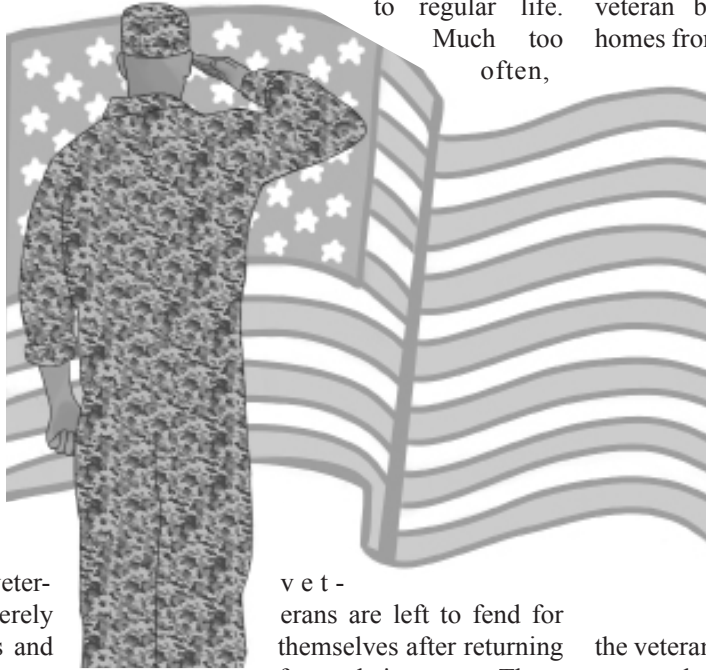
"[The Home Loan Guaranty program] offers veterans, [service members] and their families the keys to home ownership and is truly a testament to our nation's commitment to enhancing the lives of those who served our country," VA Under Secretary for Benefits Allison Hickey said, according to the U.S. Department of VA.

The program helps eligible veterans, surviving spouses and severely disabled veterans obtain loans and grants they need to own a house; the money can be used toward buying, building, repairing or adapting the house as necessary. According to the VA, for the 2014 fiscal year, the Home Loan program guaranteed about 35,000 loans per month, adding up to a total of 438,398 loans. 1,253 grants were given to severely disabled veterans for the

modification, construction or purchase of houses.

When students were asked for their opinion on the home loans, many were supportive of the program.

"Home Loans like the ones given out by the VA are definitely going to help [veterans] return to regular life. Much too often,



veterans are left to fend for themselves after returning from their tours. These loans will help provide for veterans who seek to settle down in new property. I will also give them the confidence to go out in the world because they know that they have support," senior Matthew Chan said.

Some also voiced that veterans would gain more than a home.

"Home loans not only will ease their after-war trauma,[but] it will also help them to think it is worth it to fight for our country," senior Gina Huang said.

Not only did the VA help veterans buy their houses, but it also helped them keep their houses as well. In the 2014 fiscal year, the VA aided nearly 80,000 veteran borrowers from losing their homes from foreclosure. Those who had loans from the VA also had the lowest foreclosure rate compared to those who had other types of home loans.

The Home Loan Guaranty program, established in 1944, has catered to veterans returning from World War II, providing benefits such as home loans, job training and schooling. By the time the first GI Bill ended in 1956, 7.8 million World War II veterans participated in the education and training program; the VA also provided nearly 2.4 million home loans for the veterans as well. In 1984, the GI Bill was readapted to cater to the newer generation of veterans. It was updated most recently in 2008 to give more benefits to veterans in active duty, as well as the opportunity for veterans to transfer unused benefits to their spouses and children.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN

Concerns for UC Acceptance Could Decrease This Year

DEREK WU
Staff Writer

According to Los Angeles Times, starting in 2009, the University of California system (UC) has been increasing their out-of-state applicants' acceptance rates. The decision to accept more out-of-state applicants was due to insufficient capital for education.

"Knowing that the acceptance rates of California residents has been decreasing scares me because this means I have a lower chance of going to a UC, and will [possibly] have to go out of state which is more [expensive]," junior Amy Than said.

To further discuss the financial issues of UCs and the acceptance of both in and out-of-state applicants, a confirmation hearing among UC regents was held on Aug. 22. California senator Jean Fuller expressed her concerns of UCs needing to focus on their goal: to educate the students of California. She also expressed that to boost revenue, UCs can easily appeal to other regions of California that are not generally targeted, such as those of the Central Valley.

According to The New York Times, California senator Michael J. Rubio made a suggestion that UCs should limit the amount of out-of-state students enrolled. The law would prevent all 10 UC universities from enrolling more than 10 percent of out-of-state students.

"I think it's better that there is a limit set on the percentage of out-of-state students because after all, UCs should appeal to their residents more than [non-residents]," senior Raymond Chau said.



WORD UP AHS teachers Dorothy Burkhart and Joshua Moreno announce the individuals who have placed in the school's Poetry Out Loud competition. The top eight competitors moved on to the district competition on Nov. 19. MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

Fall Play: Thespians Introduce Murder Mystery

AMBER LI
Staff Writer

making things that contribute to something bigger," stage crew member Samantha Jones said.

In November, Alhambra's Thespian Society and Drama Department traditionally perform a play for the community. This year, the play was the murder mystery "The Butler Did It," written by Tim Kelly.

Last year's fall play, "Midsummer Jersey," was a humorous modern adaptation of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" set in New Jersey. And Although "The Butler Did It" was a darker play, it still satirizes old stereotypical English mystery dramas.

Those involved with the play were satisfied with their work on the set and stage.

"Personally, I enjoyed making the background. It doesn't seem much compared to the actors, but I like



WHO DID IT? Thespians and Drama brought to life the murder mystery, "The Butler Did It," on Nov. 20 and 21.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DERICK QUACH

Some members were pleased with the unity the play created.

"Our whole cast, crew, and director worked so hard to make this production the best we [could]. With great teamwork, this production was a great learning experience to all [who] were involved," Thespians president Lesly Mercado said.

Overall, students were content with how "The Butler Did It" turned out.

"The play was so good. I liked the fact that it was funny, [Thespians and] Drama really outdid themselves this year," sophomore Jenny Mai said.

The play was held at 7 p.m. on Nov. 20 and 21 in the auditorium. Presold tickets were \$6 and tickets at the door were \$8.

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