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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Alameda County Supervisor Valle Presents Commendation to Oakland Vet Center and Alameda County Veterans for their participation in the Veterans Art Project**



Caption: Image of Alameda County Supervisor Valle (center) hosting commendation event for the Veterans Art Project. Pictured (from left) are Rachel Osajima, County Arts Commission Director; Paul Wilson, Veteran's Spouse; Oley Jones, Veteran; Fanny Garcia, Veteran; Gloria Wilson, Veteran; Richard Garber, Oakland Vet Center Counselor; Emma Morton, Veteran's Spouse; Jack Morton, Veteran; Dr. David Joseph, Oakland Vet Center Director; Raul Valle, Veteran and father of Supervisor Valle; Richard Valle, County Supervisor; Sean Gibson, Oakland Vet Center Outreach Coordinator; Christine Ralls, Veteran's Spouse; Laurina Sousa, Cal Veteran Services Center Peer Advisor; Doug Thompson, Veteran; Ed McKay, Veteran; Kimberly Kitano, Veteran's Spouse; Henry Newton, Veteran; Violet Juno, Arts Commission Coordinator; Kevin Hing, County Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller. Photograph by Paul Kuroda.

**Oakland CA – (July 10, 2019)** –Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle presented a commendation to honor local veterans and the Oakland Vet Center for their participation in the Veterans Art Program on Wednesday, July 10. For the last four years, this program has brought creative expression workshops to the Oakland Vet Center to support the crucial services provided to our Alameda County veterans and their families.

“I am pleased to present this commendation to the Oakland Vet Center to honor the artistic accomplishments of local Veterans participating in the Veterans Art Project and to honor the Oakland Vet Center’s commitment to providing innovative care for our Veterans,” said Supervisor Valle. “This partnership project demonstrates that creativity and art are a vital part of Alameda County’s resilient and thriving community.”

The Veterans Art Project is coordinated by the Alameda County Arts Commission in partnership with the Oakland Vet Center. The goal of the Veterans Art Project is to provide Veterans with opportunities to express themselves in a supportive environment, explore visual art techniques, and engage in community building. This innovative program is part of a statewide initiative for Veterans and active military funded by the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Artworks created through this program are currently on view as part of the Arts Commission's Art In Public Spaces program in the Board of Supervisors Lobby Gallery on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Alameda County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland. The public is encouraged to visit the exhibition that will be on view through Thursday, August 1. This exhibition is free and open to the public during open hours. For more information about the exhibition, please call (510) 891-5716 or (510) 272-6984.

This exhibition features three projects conducted at the Oakland Vet Center in Oakland and at the Cal Veteran Services Center on the UC Berkeley campus. Participants include 15 Veterans who served during the Vietnam War, 13 Veterans who served during the Global War on Terror or other conflicts, and 6 partners of Veterans. Art projects on display include painting, photography, collage and writing.

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