

City of



**REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10:15am #2A

COUNCIL MEETING 9/16/10

APPROVED BY

August 19, 2010

FROM: Councilmember Larry Westerlund *LW*

SUBJECT: AMEND THE FRESNO MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW "GOLD STAR" FAMILY MEMBERS DISPLAYING CALIFORNIA STATE "GOLD STAR" LICENSE PLATES TO PARK FOR FREE AT ANY CITY OF FRESNO CONTROLLED PARKING SPACES.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council approve amending the Fresno Municipal Code Section 14-2301(c) to allow "Gold Star" family members displaying California State "Gold State" License Plates to park for free at any Fresno City controlled parking spaces.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On October 8, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into California State law SB1455 authored by State Senator Dave Cogdill and Senator Jeff Denhem that established the "Gold Star" license plate program.

A "Gold Star" family is a family that has suffered the loss of a son or daughter, brother or sister, whom while as a member of the United States Armed Forces, died in armed conflict serving our country.

The newly established license plate program, allows "Gold Star" family members to obtain a license plate, after proper verification, and display it on their vehicle in recognition of their sacrifice to our country. The State program and this amendment to the Fresno City Code for free parking, is similar to license plate programs, we currently have for Medal of Honor recipients, Legion of Valor recipients, Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor Survivors and Former Prisoners of War, all of whom may park free in at City of Fresno controlled parking spaces.

While a very small gesture compared to the enormous sacrifice "Gold Star" families have made on behalf of our nation, we cannot and should not allow ourselves to forget the families that, as Lincoln wrote "have laid such a costly sacrifice upon the alter of freedom."

**DISCUSSION**

Currently, the City of Fresno allows Medal of Honor recipients, Legion of Valor recipients, Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor Survivors and Former Prisoners of War to park for free at all City of Fresno controlled parking spaces under the "Veterans' License Plate" program as currently written in

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municipal code section 14-2301(c). I have attached a copy of the code. This amendment would simply establish an additional category under the program for "Gold Star" family members.

Under the State program, a "Gold Star" family member, who is directly related to a deceased service member killed on active duty, can request the special license plate from the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the DMV verifies eligibility for the family member, who then obtains the plates from the DMV and attaches and displays the plates on their vehicle. Those family member properly licensed with the State would be able to park for free at any City of Fresno controlled parking space.

The Parking Manager estimates that there would be negligible fiscal impact on the parking fund. The number of "Gold Star" families resulting from our two current wars in the Fresno-Clovis area is roughly less than twenty families.

BILL NUMBER: SB 1455 ENROLLED  
BILL TEXT

PASSED THE SENATE AUGUST 14, 2008  
PASSED THE ASSEMBLY AUGUST 12, 2008  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2008  
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 21, 2008  
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 6, 2008  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 22, 2008  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2008

INTRODUCED BY Senators Cogdill and Denham  
(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Ashburn, Cedillo, Lowenthal,  
Margett, Oropeza, and Torlakson)  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Benoit, Berryhill, Cook, La Malfa,  
Maze, Sharon Runner, and Villines)

FEBRUARY 21, 2008

An act to amend Sections 5156 and 5157 of the Vehicle Code,  
relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1455, Cogdill. Vehicles: specialized license plates.

Under existing law, the Department of Motor Vehicles issues environmental and other specialized license plates. The issuance of some of those license plates is subject to additional fees. Existing law prohibits the department from establishing a specialized license plate program for a state agency until the department has received not less than 7,500 applications for the plates.

This bill would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to sponsor a Gold Star Family specialized license plate program and would waive the 7,500 minimum applications requirement. The bill would authorize a person who is an eligible family member, as defined, of a member of the Armed Forces who was killed in the line of duty, as specified, to apply for the specialized license plate. The bill would establish the Gold Star Family license plate Account in the Specialized License Plate Fund. The bill would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to actively request and receive donations that would be deposited in the account and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, those moneys would be available to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the necessary administrative costs of establishing the Gold Star Family specialized license plate program. The bill would exempt the participants in this program from the payment of additional specialized license plate fees for the issuance or renewal of the plate. The bill would also specify the conditions pursuant to which a Gold Star Family specialized license plate would be retired from use.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Throughout California's history, thousands of Californians have given their lives in the Armed Forces of the United States in

defense of our country.

(b) "Gold Star Family" is a commonly understood term used to describe a family member who has lost a loved one in military service.

(c) Gold Star Families in California have sought to honor their lost family members through the creation of special recognition Gold Star Family specialized license plates, which have been established in several other states.

(d) It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this act, to provide for the creation of a Gold Star Family specialized license plate program in California to honor the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who gave their lives in defense of our country and to honor their Gold Star Families in California.

SEC. 2. Section 5156 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

5156. (a) (1) A state agency may apply to the department to sponsor a specialized license plate program, and the department shall issue specialized license plates for that program, if the agency complies with all of the requirements of this article.

(2) The department shall not issue specialized license plates to a state agency for a vehicle that is exempt from the payment of registration fees pursuant to Section 9101 or 9103.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (d), the department shall not establish a specialized license plate program for an agency until the department has received not less than 7,500 applications for that agency's specialized license plates. The agency shall collect and hold applications for the plates. Once the agency has received at least 7,500 applications, it shall submit the applications, along with the necessary fees, to the department. The department shall not issue a specialized license plate until the agency has received and submitted to the department not less than 7,500 applications for that particular specialized license plate within the time period prescribed in this section. Advance payment to the department by the agency representing the department's estimated or actual administrative costs associated with the issuance of a particular specialized license plate shall not constitute compliance with this requirement. The agency shall have 12 months, following the date of approval of the agency's initial application to sponsor a specialized license plate program, to receive the required number of applications. If, after that 12 months, 7,500 applications have not been received, the agency shall immediately do either of the following:

(1) Refund to all applicants all fees or deposits that have been collected.

(2) Contact the department to indicate the agency's intent to undertake collection of additional applications and fees or deposits for an additional period, not to exceed 12 months, in order to obtain the minimum 7,500 applications. If the agency elects to exercise the option under this subparagraph, it shall contact each applicant who has submitted an application with the appropriate fees or deposits to determine if the applicant wishes a refund of fees or deposits or requests the continuance of the holding of the application and fees or deposits until that time that the agency has received 7,500 applications. The agency shall refund the fees or deposits to an applicant so requesting. The agency shall not collect and hold applications for a period exceeding 24 months following the date of approval of the agency's initial application to sponsor a specialized license plate program.

(c) (1) If the number of outstanding and valid specialized license plates in a particular program, except as provided in subdivision (d), provided for in this article is less than 7,500, the department

shall notify the sponsoring agency of that fact and shall inform the agency that if that number is less than 7,500 one year from the date of that notification, the department will no longer issue or replace those specialized license plates.

(2) Those particular specialized license plates that were issued prior to the discontinuation provided by paragraph (1) may continue to be used and attached to the vehicle for which they were issued and may be renewed, retained, or transferred pursuant to this code.

(d) (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs may sponsor a Gold Star Family specialized license plate program and the department may establish this specialized license plate program in the absence of 7,500 paid applications as provided in subdivision (d) of Section 5157.

(2) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall, upon receiving proof of eligibility from an applicant, authorize the department to issue Gold Star Family specialized license plates for a vehicle owned by an eligible family member of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who was killed in the line of duty while on active duty during wartime service, or during an international terrorist attack that has been recognized by the United States Secretary of Defense as an attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, or during military operations while serving outside the United States, including commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States, or as part of a peacekeeping force, which includes personnel assigned to a force engaged in a peacekeeping operation authorized by the United Nations Security Council. An eligible family member is defined as all of the following:

(A) A person who is otherwise eligible under this article to register a motor vehicle.

(B) A person who shows proof from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense that the member who was in the Armed Forces of the United States was killed in the line of duty while on active duty in the military.

(C) A person who bears, and shows proof satisfactory to the Department of Veterans Affairs of, one of the following relationships to the member of the Armed Forces killed in the line of duty while serving on active duty:

- (i) Widow.
- (ii) Widower.
- (iii) Biological parent.
- (iv) Adoptive parent.
- (v) Stepparent.
- (vi) Foster parent in loco parentis.
- (vii) Biological child.
- (viii) Adoptive child.
- (ix) Stepchild.
- (x) Sibling.
- (xi) Half-sibling.
- (xii) Grandparent.
- (xiii) Grandchild.

(3) Upon the death of a person issued a Gold Star Family specialized license plate, the license plate shall be transferred to the surviving spouse, if he or she requests, or shall be returned to the department within 60 days after the death of the plateholder or upon the expiration of the vehicle registration, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 3. Section 5157 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:  
5157. (a) In addition to the regular fees for an original registration or renewal of registration, the following additional

fees shall be paid for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the specialized license plates:

- (1) For the original issuance of the plates, fifty dollars (\$50).
- (2) For a renewal of registration with the plates, forty dollars (\$40).
- (3) For transfer of the plates to another vehicle, fifteen dollars (\$15).
- (4) For each substitute replacement plate, thirty-five dollars (\$35).

(5) In addition, for the issuance of environmental license plates, as defined in Section 5103, with a specialized license plate design, the additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108. The additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108 shall be deposited in the California Environmental License Plate Fund.

(b) The Gold Star Family specialized license plate program as provided in subdivision (d) of Section 5156 shall not be subject to the fees specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (5) of subdivision (a) and shall only be issued in a sequential series.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a), and after deducting its administrative costs under this section, the department shall deposit the additional revenue derived from the issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of the specialized license plates in the Specialized License Plate Fund, which is hereby established in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the moneys in that fund shall be allocated to each sponsoring agency, in proportion to the amount in the fund that is attributable to the agency's specialized license plate program. Except as authorized under Section 5159, the sponsoring agency shall expend all funds received under this section exclusively for projects and programs that promote the state agency's official policy, mission, or work.

(d) (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs may actively request and receive donations for the Gold Star Family License Plate Account which is hereby created in the Specialized License Plate Fund and which may consist of donations from public and private entities. Earnings generated by the Gold Star Family License Plate Account shall be retained by the account.

(2) Upon the determination of the department that there are sufficient funds in the Gold Star Family License Plate Account for this purpose, moneys in the Gold Star Family License Plate Account shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for the necessary administrative costs of establishing the Gold Star Family specialized license plate program.

Fresno, California, Code of Ordinances >> - MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF FRESNO >>  
**CHAPTER 14 - VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC >> ARTICLE 23 - SPECIFIED VETERANS' PERMIT  
PARKING >>**

**ARTICLE 23 - SPECIFIED VETERANS' PERMIT PARKING**

SEC. 14-2301 - DEFINITIONS.

SEC. 14-2302 - PRIVILEGES OF VETERANS' PARKING LICENSES.

**SEC. 14-2301. - DEFINITIONS.**

(a) Unless the particular provision or the context otherwise requires, the definitions and provisions contained in this section shall govern the construction, meaning and application of words and phrases used in this article, and, except to the extent that a particular word or phrase is otherwise specifically defined in this section, the definitions and provisions contained in Article 2 of Chapter 1 of this Code shall also govern the construction, meaning and application of words and phrases used in this article unless the particular provisions or the context otherwise requires. The definition of each word or phrase shall constitute, to the extent applicable, the definition of each word or phrase which is derivative from it, or from which it is a derivative, as the case may be.

(b) "Motor vehicle" means an automobile, truck, motorcycle or other motor-driven form of transportation not in excess of 6,000 pounds gross weight.

(c) "Veterans' License Plate" means a valid license plate issued by the California Department of Motor vehicles under Vehicle Code Section 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6, and 5101.8, or such other statutes as later enacted which provide for the issuance of license plates to Medal of Honor recipients, Legion of Valor recipients, Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor Survivors, and Former Prisoners of War and such other plates issued by another state which indicate a similar status.

(d) "Controlled parking space" for purposes of this Article means, a parking space in a city-owned lot, or space in a time restricted zone of one hour or more, or a metered space. "Controlled parking space" does not mean a space assigned to city employees, a time controlled space of less than one hour, or space dedicated to disabled persons. (Added Ord. 96-27, § 2, eff. 5-10-96; Am. Ord. 96-75, § 2, eff. 1-17-97).

**SEC. 14-2302. - PRIVILEGES OF VETERANS' PARKING LICENSES.**

A person may park a motor vehicle upon which a Veterans' Parking license is displayed in any controlled parking space without charge. (Added Ord. 96-27, § 2, eff. 5-10-96; Am. Ord. 96-75, § 2, eff. 1-17-97).



Washington State Department of  
Veterans Affairs



WDVA Central Office Hours Monday - Thursday 7:00 am - 6:00 pm Friday Closed

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## Gold Star Parent License Plates

Available Now!



In 2008, the Washington State Legislature approved a license plate for Gold Star Parents. The plates honor parents of military men and women who lost their lives in service to our Country.

[Unveiling Ceremony video \(2:19\)](#)  
Gold Star Parents may request their Gold Star License Plate Certification letter from WDVA by using [this form \(PDF\)](#).

Once the certification letter is received, the Gold Star Parent may take the letter to any [vehicle licensing office](#) to order their Gold Star License Plate.

**Below is a list of [Frequently Asked Questions on the Gold Star License Plate.](#)**

### **New WAC 308-96A-545 Gold Star Parent License Plate**

**(1) What is a Gold Star Parent license plate?**  
The Gold Star Parent license plate was created by the Legislature to recognize the parents of United States Armed forces members who have died while in service to their country or as a result of such service.

### **(2) Who qualifies as a parent of a member of the United State Armed Forces?**

The term "parent", as defined by The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, (WDVA) includes:

- (a) Birth mother,
- (b) Birth father,
- (c) Stepmother,
- (d) Stepfather,
- (e) Mother through adoption,
- (f) Father through adoption, and
- (g) Adults who fulfilled the parental role including foster parents and kinship care providers or caretaker relative. (Documentation required)

### **(3) Who can purchase a Gold Star Parent plate?**

A resident of this state and a registered owner of a motorized vehicle who is a parent of a member of the United States armed forces who has died while in service to their country or as a result of such service. The parent must be certified by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA).

### **(4) What is required to purchase a Gold Star Parent plate?**

A copy of the letter to a qualifying parent provided by WDVA is required. The letter will be used in lieu of a special plate application to purchase the plate. No other documentation is required.

### **(5) Can a Gold Star Parent plate be transferred to a new owner?**

No. The plate may only be transferred to a vehicle owned by the same registered owner who was certified as a qualifying parent by WDVA. The plate cannot be transferred to a different registered owner. If the parent transfers the plate to a new car registered to them, they are required to

## How to apply

1. Request a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs certifying you are a qualifying parent of a member of the United States armed services.
2. Take the letter from Department of Veterans Affairs, a copy of your vehicle registration, and a check or money order for the fees to a [vehicle licensing office](#).

OR

Mail them to:  
Vehicle Licensing  
Department of Licensing  
PO Box 9909  
Olympia, WA 98507-8500

pay the plate transfer fee.

**(6) What vehicles qualify to display a Gold Star Parent plate?**  
Motorized vehicles required to display one or two license plates.

**(7) What fees are required to purchase the plate?**  
There is no special plate fee or special plate renewal fee for the Gold Star Parent plate. The registered owner must pay all licensing fees.

**(8) Is the plate subject to the mandatory plate replacement?**  
Yes, the plate must be replaced every seven years due to mandatory plate replacement requirements. Customers will not be charged the plate replacement fees, or the fee to keep their same number.

**(9) Can a Gold Star plate background be personalized?**  
Yes. A Gold Star plate background can be personalized; however, the customer is required to pay all fees associated with a personalized plate original purchase or renewal.  
<http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/sppersonalized.html>

**(10) Is a commercial vehicle eligible for a Gold Star Parent plate as long as it is in the name of the qualifying parent and not a business name?**  
Yes.

**(11) Can a prorated vehicle display a Gold Star Parent plate if the vehicle is under the name of the parent that is eligible for this plate?**  
No per RCW 46.87.

Please contact your Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs at:  
1-800-562-0132 option '1' if you have questions or need additional information.

## Gold Star Mother/Spouse License Plates



Kentucky issued the first license plates honoring Gold Star Mothers – parents whose children have died in military service – with individualized plates in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda in April 2006.

Since the start of this program, KDVA has presented more than 45 Gold Star Mother license plates.

KDVA continues to present the plates in an individual ceremony to each Gold Star Mother who requests one.

Besides the Capitol Rotunda, KDVA has presented Gold Star Mother license plates in recipient homes, churches and local courthouses, and even the Governor's mansion.

In 2007, the General Assembly waived the license plate fee for up to two special Gold Star Mother license plates for each recipient. However, recipients must still pay the annual motor vehicle tax.

In 2008, the General Assembly expanded the license fee exemption for Gold Star plates to include plates for Gold Star spouses. This means that now any mother or spouse of a servicemember killed on active duty can apply to receive these plates free of charge (but still required to pay the annual motor vehicle tax).



See Also...  
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

### How to Request a Gold Star Mother/Spouse License Plate

To request a Gold Star Mother/Spouse License Plate, simply mail or fax a copy of the official Department of Defense death notice or death certificate (DD Form 1300) of the service member to:

Jeffrey Acob  
Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs  
1111B Louisville Rd.  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
FAX: 502-564-9240

Or call Jeffrey Acob at 502-564-9203.

KDVA will notify the appropriate County Clerk that the Gold Star Mother/Spouse is eligible for the license plate.

KDVA will then notify the Gold Star Mother/Spouse that he/she may request the plate from the County Clerk, and specify the personalization.

The Department of Motor Vehicles in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will notify KDVA when the license plate is available.

KDVA will then present the license plate to the Gold Star Mother/Spouse at a time and place of his/her choosing.

Email us for more information about Gold Star Mother/Spouse license plates.

*Please be aware that Gold Star Mother/Spouse license plates are not at this time available for family members other than the mother or spouse of the deceased military member.*

Last Updated 3/24/2009

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**SEC. 14-2301. DEFINITIONS.**

(a) Unless the particular provision or the context otherwise requires, the definitions and provisions contained in this section shall govern the construction, meaning and application of words and phrases used in this article, and except to the extent that a particular word or phrase is otherwise specifically defined in this section, the definitions and provisions contained in Article 2 of Chapter 1 of this Code shall also govern the construction, meaning and application of words and phrases used in this article unless the particular provisions or the context otherwise requires. The definition of each word or phrase shall constitute, to the extent applicable, the definition of each word or phrase which is derivative from it, or from which it is a derivative, as the case may be.

(b) "Motor vehicle" means an automobile, truck, motorcycle or other motor-driven form of transportation not in excess of 6,000 pounds gross weight.

(c) "Veterans' License Plate" means a valid license plate issued by the California Department of Motor vehicles under Vehicle Code Section 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6, and 5101.8, or such other statutes as later enacted which provide for the issuance of license plates to Medal of Honor recipients, Legion of Valor recipients, Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor Survivors, and Former Prisoners of War and such other plates issued by another state which indicate a similar status.

(d) "Controlled parking space" for purposes of this Article means, a parking space in a city-owned lot, or space in a time restricted zone of one hour or more, or a metered space. "Controlled parking space" does not mean a space assigned to city employees, a time controlled space of less than one hour, or space dedicated to disabled persons. (Added Ord. 96-27, § 2, eff. 5-10-96; Am. Ord. 96-75, § 2, eff. 1-17-97).

**SEC. 14-2302. PRIVILEGES OF VETERANS' PARKING LICENSES.**

A person may park a motor vehicle upon which a Veterans' Parking license is displayed in any controlled parking space without charge. (Added Ord. 96-27, § 2, eff. 5-10-96; Am. Ord. 96-75, § 2, eff. 1-17-97).

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## Veterans with Special License Plates: Parking in Metered Spaces

22511.3. (a) A veteran displaying special license plates issued under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6, or 5101.8 may park his or her motor vehicle, weighing not more than 6,000 pounds gross weight, without charge, in a metered parking space.

(b) Nothing in this section restricts the rights of a person displaying either a special identification license plate issued pursuant to Section 5007 or a distinguishing placard issued pursuant to Section 22511.55 or 22511.59.

(c) (1) This section does not exempt a vehicle displaying special license plates issued under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6, or 5101.8 from compliance with any other state law or ordinance, including, but not limited to, vehicle height restrictions, zones that prohibit stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles, parking time limitations, street sweeping, restrictions of the parking space to a particular type of vehicle, or the parking of a vehicle that is involved in the operation of a street vending business.

(2) This section does not authorize a vehicle displaying special license plates issued under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6, or 5101.8 to park in a state parking facility that is designated only for state employees.

(3) This section does not authorize a vehicle displaying special license plates issued under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6, or 5101.8 to park during time periods other than the normal business hours of, or the maximum time allotted by, a state or local authority parking facility.

(4) This section does not require the state or a local authority to designate specific parking spaces for vehicles displaying special license plates issued under Section 5101.3, 5101.4, 5101.5, 5101.6, or 5101.8.

(d) A local authority's compliance with subdivision (a) is solely contingent upon the approval of its governing body.

Added Sec. 1, Ch. 588, Stats. 2008. Effective January 1, 2009.

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## Pearl Harbor Survivor Plates

- 5101.3. (a) Any person otherwise eligible under this article who qualifies under subdivision (b) may apply for special license plates that shall run in a separate numerical series and shall contain the words "Pearl Harbor Survivor." The plates may be issued for any vehicle, except a vehicle used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit, or a motorcycle, which is owned or coowned by the person.
- (b) To qualify for issuance of the special plates, the applicant by satisfactory proof shall show all of the following:
- (1) The applicant was a member of the United States Armed Forces on December 7, 1941, and received an honorable discharge from military service.
  - (2) The applicant was on station at Pearl Harbor, the Island of Oahu, or offshore within a distance of three miles, on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Hawaii time, as certified by a California chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.
- (c) Upon the death of a person issued special license plates pursuant to this section, his or her surviving spouse may retain the special license plates subject to the conditions set forth in this section. Upon the death of the spouse, the retained special license plates shall be returned to the department either (1) within 60 days following that death or (2) upon the expiration of the vehicle registration, whichever occurs first.
- (d) Sections 5106 and 5108 do not apply to this section.

Amended Sec. 2, Ch. 114, Stats. 1997. Effective January 1, 1998.  
Amended Sec. 1, Ch. 612, Stats. 1999. Effective January 1, 2000.

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## Legion of Valor License Plates

5101.4. (a) Any person otherwise eligible under this article who is a recipient of the Army Medal of Honor, Navy Medal of Honor, Air Force Medal of Honor, Army Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross may apply for special license plates for the vehicle under this article.

(b) The applicant, by conclusive evidence, shall show that the applicant is a recipient of one of the nation's highest decorations for valor, as specified in subdivision (a).

(c) The special license plates issued under this section shall contain the words "Legion of Valor" and shall run in a regular numerical series. An adhesive sticker denoting which of the nation's highest decorations for valor, as specified in subdivision (a), is held by the applicant shall be affixed in a recess provided for it on the license plates.

(d) Upon the death of a person issued special license plates pursuant to this section, his or her surviving spouse may retain the special license plates subject to the conditions set forth in this section. Upon the death of the spouse, the retained special license plates shall be returned to the department either (1) within 60 days following that death or (2) upon the expiration of the vehicle registration, whichever occurs first.

(e) Sections 5106 and 5108 do not apply to this section.

Added Ch. 358, Stats. 1991, Effective January 1, 1992.

Amended Ch. 392, Stats. 1993, Effective January 1, 1994.

Amended Sec. 2, Ch. 612, Stats. 1999, Effective January 1, 2000.

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## Special License Plates: Former American Prisoners of War

5101.5. (a) A person otherwise eligible under this Article who is a former American prisoner of war may apply for special license plates for the vehicle under this article. The special license plates assigned to the vehicle shall run in a separate numerical series and contain a replica design of the American Prisoner of War Medal followed by the letters "POW" and four numbers. The special license plates issued under this subdivision also shall contain the following words: "Ex-Prisoner of War." The department shall, pursuant to this article, reserve and issue the special license plates provided for by this section only to persons who show by satisfactory proof former prisoner-of-war status. A person otherwise issued license plates within this series pursuant to this Article prior to January 1, 1982, may retain them.

(b) Special license plates may be issued pursuant to subdivision (a) only for a vehicle owned or coowned by a former American prisoner of war.

(c) Upon the death of a person issued the special license plates pursuant to this section, his or her surviving spouse may retain the special license plates subject to the conditions set forth in this section. If there is no surviving spouse, the special license plates shall be returned to the department either within 60 days following that death, or upon the expiration date of the vehicle registration, whichever date occurs first. However, in the absence of a surviving spouse, a member of the former prisoner of war's family may retain one of the special license plates as a family heirloom, subject to the conditions set forth in subdivision (h), upon submitting an affidavit to the department agreeing not to attempt to use the special license plates for vehicle registration purposes.

(d) If a surviving spouse who has elected to retain the special license plates as authorized under subdivision (c) dies while in possession of the special license plates, the special license plates shall be returned to the department either within 60 days following that death, or upon the expiration date of the vehicle registration, whichever date occurs first. However, a member of the former prisoner of war's family may retain one of the special license plates as a family heirloom, subject to the conditions set forth in subdivision (h), upon submitting an affidavit to the department agreeing not to attempt to use the special license plates for vehicle registration purposes.

(e) A vehicle exempted from fees by Section 9105 and by Section 10783 of the Revenue and Taxation Code shall lose the exemption upon the death of the former American prisoner of war, except that if a surviving spouse elects to retain the special license plates as authorized under subdivision (c), the exemption pursuant to Section 9105, and Section 10783.2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, shall extend until the death of that spouse.

(f) Sections 5106 and 5108 do not apply to this section.

(g) The department shall recall all former prisoner-of-war special license plates issued pursuant to this section prior to January 1, 1999, and shall issue to the holder of those special license plates, without charge, the revised special license plates authorized by this section.

(h) The special license plates issued under this section are not valid for use for vehicle registration purposes or for the purposes of Section 9105 or Section 10783 or 10783.2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code by a person other than the person issued the special license plates under subdivision (a) and the surviving spouse of that person.

(i) For the purposes of this section, "family" means grandparents, stepgrandparents, parents, stepparents, siblings, stepsiblings, children, and stepchildren of the person issued the special license plates under subdivision (a).

Added Sec. 4, Ch. 563, Stats. 1998. Effective January 1, 1999. Operative July 1, 1999.

Amended Sec. 2, Ch. 357, Stats. 2007. Effective January 1, 2008.

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## Congressional Medal of Honor

5101.6. (a) A person otherwise eligible under this Article who is a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient may apply for special license plates for the vehicle under this article. The special license plates assigned to the vehicle shall run in a separate numerical series and shall have inscribed on the license plate the words "Congressional Medal of Honor" or "Medal of Honor." The department shall reserve and issue the special license plates to all applicants providing the proof required by subdivision (b).

(b) The applicant shall, by satisfactory proof, show that the applicant is a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

Special license plates may be issued pursuant to subdivision (a) only for a vehicle owned or coowned by a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

(d) Upon the death of a person issued special license plates pursuant to this section, his or her surviving spouse may retain the special license plates subject to the conditions set forth in this section. If there is no surviving spouse, the special license plates shall be returned to the department either within 60 days following that death, or upon the expiration date of the vehicle registration, whichever date occurs first. However, in the absence of a surviving spouse, a member of the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient's family may retain one of the special license plates as a family heirloom, subject to the conditions set forth in subdivision (h), upon submitting an affidavit to the department agreeing not to attempt to use the special license plates for vehicle registration purposes.

(e) If a surviving spouse who has elected to retain the special license plates as authorized under subdivision (d) dies while in possession of the special license plates, the special license plates shall be returned to the department either within 60 days following that death, or upon the expiration date of the vehicle registration, whichever date occurs first. However, a member of the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient's family may retain one of the special license plates as a family heirloom, subject to the conditions set forth in subdivision (h), upon submitting an affidavit to the department agreeing not to attempt to use the special license plates for vehicle registration purposes.

(f) A vehicle exempted from fees by Section 9105 and by Section 10783 of the Revenue and Taxation Code shall lose the exemption upon the death of the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, except that if a surviving spouse elects to retain the special license plates as authorized under subdivision (d), the exemption pursuant to Section 9105, and Section 10783.2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, shall extend until the death of that spouse.

(g) Sections 5106 and 5108 do not apply to this section.

(h) The special license plates issued under this section are not valid for use for vehicle registration purposes or for the purposes of Section 9105 or Section 10783 or 10783.2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code by a person other than the person issued the special license plates under subdivision (a) and the surviving spouse of that person.

(i) For the purposes of this section, "family" means grandparents, stepgrandparents, parents, stepparents, siblings, stepsiblings, children, and stepchildren of the person issued the special license plates under subdivision (a).

Amended Sec. 3, Ch. 357, Stats. 2007. Effective January 1, 2008.

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## Purple Heart Recipient Plates

5101.8. (a) Any person otherwise eligible under this article who is a Purple Heart recipient may apply for special license plates for vehicles that are not used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit, under this article. The special plates assigned to the vehicle shall run in a separate numerical series, shall have inscribed on the plate the Purple Heart insignia, and shall contain the words "Combat Wounded" and "Purple Heart" or at least the letters "PH" as part of the numerical series. The department shall reserve and issue the special plates to all applicants providing the proof required by subdivision (b).

(b) The applicant, by satisfactory proof, shall show that the applicant is a Purple Heart recipient.

(c) Special plates may be issued pursuant to subdivision (a) only for a vehicle owned or coowned by a Purple Heart recipient.

(d) Upon the death of a person issued special license plates pursuant to this section, his or her surviving spouse may retain the special license plates subject to the conditions set forth in this section. Upon the death of the spouse, the retained, special license plates shall be returned to the department either (1) within 60 days following that death or (2) upon the expiration of the vehicle registration, whichever occurs first.

(e) When an applicant for the Purple Heart license plate qualifies as a disabled veteran, as specified in subdivision (b) of Section 22511.55, the applicant may also apply for a distinguishing placard described in subdivision (a) of Section 22511.55 to be used in conjunction with the Purple Heart license plate for the purpose of allowing special parking privileges pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 22511.5.

(f) Sections 5106 and 5108 do not apply to this section.

Amended Sec. 3, Ch. 612, Stats. 1999. Effective January 1, 2000. Amended Sec. 1, Ch. 201, Stats. 2004. Effective January 1, 2005.

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## Disabled Parking: Authorized Parking Zones

22511.5. (a) (1) A disabled person or disabled veteran displaying special license plates issued under Section 5007 or a distinguishing placard issued under Section 22511.55 or 22511.59 is allowed to park for unlimited periods in any of the following zones:

(A) In any restricted zone described in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 21458 or on streets upon which preferential parking privileges and height limits have been given pursuant to Section 22507.

(B) In any parking zone that is restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted as indicated by a sign erected pursuant to a local ordinance.

(2) A disabled person or disabled veteran is allowed to park in any metered parking space without being required to pay parking meter fees.

(3) This subdivision does not apply to a zone for which state law or ordinance absolutely prohibits stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles, or which the law or ordinance reserves for special types of vehicles, or to the parking of a vehicle that is involved in the operation of a street vending business.

(b) A disabled person or disabled veteran is allowed to park a vehicle displaying a special disabled person license plate or placard issued by a foreign jurisdiction with the same parking privileges authorized in this code for any vehicle displaying a special license plate or a distinguishing placard issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Amended Ch. 1149, Stats. 1994. Effective January 1, 1995.

Amended Sec. 12, Ch. 404, Stats. 2004. Effective January 1, 2005.

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**ATTENTION VETERANS**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 95-60**  
**BY**  
**COUNCILMAN BOB LUNG**  
**PARKING FEE WAIVER**  
**WITH SPECIAL STATE LICENSE**  
**PLATES**

I want to take this opportunity to inform you of the new city ordinance making free parking available to veterans honored for their bravery and service to our country.

My ordinance allows free parking at:

1. The Fresno Air Terminal
2. The Convention Center
3. All City parking meters
4. City Hall
5. All City-owned parking lots

Those eligible include holders of the following honors as well as their widows:

1. Congressional Medal of Honor recipients
2. Legion of Valor recipients
3. Former prisoners of war
4. Purple Heart recipients
5. Pearl Harbor survivors

This ordinance is but a small token of appreciation for the men and women who gave their all to ensure the freedom of our country.