

Our View: Making vets and their spouses a priority

By Daily Press Editorial Board

Posted May. 18, 2016 at 9:53 AM

Victor Valley College and its Board of Trustees must be applauded for taking steps to help VVC become the state's first college to offer priority registration for the spouses of disabled veterans.

By virtue of the board's recent vote, both disabled vets and their spouses now will be able to register for classes ahead of all other students. That virtually assures them of getting every class they want; there will be no wait lists for them, no need to wait until a future semester to take a class they need to graduate or to transfer.

Veterans all deserve our respect and thanks for their service, but that's especially true of our disabled vets. They served their country and wound up sacrificing much more than others, in the form of their disability. Their spouses also serve and sacrifice in their own way, by virtue of their relationship to their disabled husband or wife.

So it seems a fitting acknowledgement of their service and sacrifice that VVC will provide the spouses with priority registration that can help them complete their schooling more quickly. We hope many more colleges and universities in California will follow VVC's lead and bestow this preferential treatment on disabled vets' spouses.

We also must single out the work of the Spring Valley Lake Veterans Club, and Robert Read in particular, for bringing the idea to the Board of Trustees and pushing VVC to act. In the short time the club has been in existence it already has distinguished itself for helping and honoring our High Desert veterans.

The number of spouses who will be able to take advantage of priority registration is a small number, likely less than 100, according to VVC officials. Yet it will ease their stress as they seek to complete their educations, by assuring them of classroom priority.

As board members John Pinkerton and Joseph W. Brady noted to Reporter Charity Lindsey, this process truly was the result of a team effort.

It was an idea whose time had come and VVC's leadership made sure it had champions to foster its approval.

Congratulations to all who recognized the need for this program and ensured its passage. But above all, thanks to all of our disabled veterans and their service and sacrifice, whether at home, on base or in the battlefield.