



Mather Veterans Village Speaker Bios

Rancho Cordova, California



LINDA BUDGE, Mayor

City of Rancho Cordova

Mayor Budge has been involved in the Mather Veterans Village project since its inception in 2006. Mayor Budge can speak about the project’s history, City support for the project, as well as local impact and need for veteran housing.



AMI BERA, MD, Congressman

U.S. House of Representatives, 7th Congressional District of California

The role of the federal government is an essential component of the financial and services plans for Mather Veterans Village. Congressman Bera has engaged in and supported the project since inception. Congressman Bera resides in Elk Grove with his wife and daughter. Prior to serving in Congress, Dr. Bera served as the Chief Medical Officer for Sacramento County, and practiced medicine for more than 20 years.



KEN COOLEY, Assemblyman

California State Assembly, District 8

As a founding City Councilmember and two-time Mayor of the City of Rancho Cordova, Assemblyman Ken Cooley worked closely with City staff to help transform Mather Veterans Village from an innovative idea into a tangible outcome. As the State Assembly representative, Assemblyman Cooley continued to coordinate with stakeholders and community leaders to advocate for State funds for supportive housing projects at Mather Veterans Village.



DON NOTTOLI, Supervisor

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 5

Supervisor Nottoli has been a key proponent of Mather Veterans Village and can speak to Sacramento County’s role in securing the land and other project components. He represents the diverse Fifth District, which encompasses over 650 square miles and includes the cities of Elk Grove, Galt, Isleton and Rancho Cordova, as well as rural farming areas and the River Delta communities. Due to a County Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Nottoli is available by phone.



ROBERT J. MCGARVEY, Vice Mayor

City of Rancho Cordova

Vice Mayor McGarvey has been involved in the Mather Veterans Village project from its inception in 2006. He has remained directly involved every step of the way to ensure its success. Vice Mayor McGarvey can speak to the original vision for the project, the need for the project, and the development of project partnerships.



BURT MCCHESENEY, Executive Director and Board Member

Veterans Housing Development Corporation (VHDC) and Veterans Resource Centers of America (VRC)

Burt McChesney is a Vietnam veteran, son of a WWII and Korea veteran, and grandson of WWI veterans. VHDC, a non-profit housing development agency, and VRC are the co-developers for Mather Veterans Village, and VRC is the service provider. Executive Director McChesney can speak to the overall project development, as well as the importance of key supportive services provided to veterans on-site.





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STEPHAN DAUES, Regional Director, Real Estate Development

Mercy Housing California (MHC)

MHC is the lead developer for Mather Veterans Village. MHC coordinated the overall design of the project, secured financing, oversaw the construction, and provides property management. Stephan is responsible for leading MHC’s real estate development operations in the Greater Sacramento region. Since 1993, MHC has developed over 11,000 affordable homes including more than 140 rental properties across 36 California counties.



BEN METCALF, Director

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

As a financial partner, Director Metcalf can speak to the critically important gap funding HCD provided for Mather Veterans Village. The Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program, a partnership with HCD, California Department of Veterans Affairs and California Housing Finance Agency, has committed \$4.9 million for Mather Veterans Village Phase II and \$6 million for Phase III.



VITO IMBASCIANI, MD, Secretary

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)

As a financial partner, Secretary Imbasciani can speak to CalVet’s role in ensuring that projects funded through the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program include the necessary supportive services struggling veterans need on their path to self-sufficiency, including veteran-specific resources in health care, substance abuse counseling, case management, assistance in applying for veterans benefits, and employment services.



SARAH O’DANIEL, Assistant Director, Housing Choice Voucher Program

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA)

As a financial partner, Assistant Director O’Daniel can speak to SHRA’s role in assisting the Mather Veterans Village project by administering 50 project-based vouchers under the federal Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH). This multi-agency partnership turns hope into housing for homeless veterans and their families in Sacramento, giving them the keys to opportunities for a stable and sustainable future.



GEORGE THOMAS, U.S. Army, Served 1979-86, Resident

Mather Veterans Village

George served as a field radio repairman and earned the rank of E5 Sergeant in the U.S. Army. After falling on some tough times, he reached out to VRC and has moved into Mather Veterans Village – a place he can now call home.

