VETERAN OF THE YEAR NARRATIVE

John Warren - District 4

For more than six decades, **John Warren** has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to service, leadership, and community involvement. From his service in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, to a distinguished 32-year career with the California Highway Patrol, and his continued dedication to veterans and civic engagement throughout Stanislaus County, John has devoted his life to serving others. His record reflects the very best qualities of a veteran: duty, integrity, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to his community.

John proudly served in the **United States Navy from 1965 to 1971**, including active duty aboard the **USS James E. Kyes (DD-787)** from 1966 to 1968. During two Western Pacific deployments, including operations off the coast of Vietnam, he participated in naval gunfire support missions and Operation Sea Dragon. While serving as a **Third-Class Petty Officer and Quartermaster**, he performed critical navigation duties that contributed to the safe operation of the ship and mission success. On October 30, 1967, the USS James E. Kyes came under fire from a North Vietnamese coastal gun emplacement, and John was awarded the **Combat Action Ribbon** for his service during that engagement. He also served during the 1968 USS Pueblo crisis, when his ship was redirected to the Sea of Japan in support of recovery operations.

Following his military service, John dedicated **32 years to the California Highway Patrol**, serving communities throughout California from 1968 to 2000.

Retirement did not mark the end of John's service. Instead, it began another chapter of civic involvement and advocacy. He currently serves on the **Stanislaus County Nuisance Abatement Hearing Board**, the **Ceres Citizens Veterans Advisory Committee**, and the **Stanislaus Council of Governments Citizens Advisory Committee**. He is also a former member of the Ceres Beautification Committee and remains actively engaged in local government by regularly attending Ceres City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

John's devotion to veterans is evident through his leadership and active participation in both **Ceres VFW Post 10293** and **Ceres American Legion Post 491**. As VFW Quartermaster, he manages the post's financial responsibilities and reporting requirements, while his service with the American Legion has included roles as Third Vice Commander, Sergeant at Arms, and member of the executive committee. He is also a dedicated participant in both organizations' Honor Guard and Color Guard programs.

Together with fellow veterans, John helps conduct more than **50 Honor Guard ceremonies annually**, honoring veterans and supporting families throughout the region, including at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery. He participates in Memorial Day observances, school programs, community events, and collaborative efforts with other veterans organizations. He also advocates for veterans by engaging with elected officials and participating in advisory meetings focused on improving access to services and resources.

What distinguishes John Warren is his lifelong commitment to serving something greater than himself. Whether serving aboard a Navy destroyer during wartime, protecting California communities as a CHP officer, or ensuring that veterans receive the recognition and support they deserve, he has consistently answered the call to serve. His dedication to sustaining veterans organizations and mentoring future generations ensures that the legacy and sacrifices of our nation's veterans will not be forgotten.

John Warren's life is a remarkable example of patriotism, leadership, and selfless service. His military service distinguished public safety career, and continued commitment to veterans and the

community make him exceptionally deserving of recognition as Stanislaus County Veteran of the Year for District 4.