



Below is a list of actions announced by California Attorney General Becerra as part of “Operation Donate with Honor”:

- **514 Veterans Charities to Receive Delinquency Notice:** Each of the 514 veterans charities listed as “delinquent” on the Attorney General’s Registry of Charitable Trusts will be receiving a delinquency notice. If these charities fail to remedy their delinquency, the Registry will follow up and suspend their registration.
- **Help the Vets (dba American Disabled Veterans Foundation, Inc., Military Families of America, Veterans Emergency Blood Bank, Veterans Fighting Breast Cancer and Vets Fighting Breast Cancer):** Founded by Neil Paulson, Sr., Help the Vets is a sham charity that took in \$20 million in donations over four years under the pretext of assisting veterans, but used virtually none of those funds to help veterans. Help the Vets used multiple fictitious names (dbas) and solicited donations nationwide telling donors that veterans would be given grants, medical assistance, suicide prevention assistance, and family retreats. Attorney General Becerra, along with the FTC and five other state Attorneys General, filed a complaint and notice of settlement in federal court. Help the Vets and Paulson will be banned from soliciting charitable contributions, and Paulson will be further banned from engaging in other charity-related activities. Also, Help the Vets will disgorge its remaining assets (over \$70,000), and Paulson will pay \$1.75 million to be distributed to legitimate veterans charities. The complaint, exhibits and stipulated judgment can be found [HERE](#).
- **Operation Troop Aid (OTA):** OTA, a Tennessee nonprofit organization, and Harris Jewelry had a years-long unwritten arrangement where Harris Jewelry would publicly advertise that when consumers purchased one of its teddy bears dressed in military uniforms, it would donate a specific amount of money, depending on the bear’s size, to OTA to send care packages to service members. OTA has acknowledged that during the period of its co-venture arrangement with Harris Jewelry, it operated in violation of multiple statutes applicable to charities and charitable solicitation. OTA has agreed to cease its operations, wind down and dissolve, and its chief executive officer and founder has agreed to be banned from serving as a fiduciary, or soliciting donations for any charitable organization. The California Department of Justice will enforce the Agreed Final Judgment in California, and the Agreed Final Judgment and original complaint can be found [HERE](#).

- **Healing Heroes Network:** Healing Heroes Network failed to disclose to the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts that a consent judgment was entered against it with the Iowa Attorney General involving the charity's operations. To protect California donors, charities are required to disclose to the Registry of Charitable Trusts if they have committed violations outside of California. Healing Heroes Network also continued soliciting funds while delinquent in its reporting with the Registry of Charitable Trusts, and attempted to deceive the Registry about its legal history. As a result, Healing Heroes Network was ordered to cease and desist from operating and soliciting donations in California. The order can be found [HERE](#).
- **Healing American Heroes (dba Help Our Wounded):** Stemming from misrepresentations and diversion of funds, the Michigan Attorney General's Office took an enforcement action against Healing American Heroes. Instead of disclosing this information, Healing American Heroes continued to operate and engage in correspondence with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts in an attempt to conceal the adverse action taken against it. Consequently, Healing American Heroes was ordered to stop soliciting donations in California. The order can be found [HERE](#).
- **The Vet Hunters Project:** The Vet Hunters Project solicited donations in California without registering with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts and was sent several notices to register. The Vet Hunters Project failed to respond. As a result, it was ordered to stop soliciting donations in California. A copy of the cease and desist order can be found [HERE](#).
- **Foundation for American Veterans:** For two years, Foundation for American Veterans failed to file required reports. After failing to appeal a notice of Intent to Suspend, the California Attorney General's Office removed Foundation for American Veterans from its Registry of Charitable Trusts. The notice of intent to suspend can be found [HERE](#).
- **American Veterans Foundation (AVF):** From 2009-2016, AVF repeatedly made false statements under penalty of perjury in public filings to the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts. AVF falsely stated that it did not use commercial fundraisers. AVF stated it spent less than 50% of the funds raised on the non-charitable parts of its program, despite the fact that most of the funds went to the for-profit telemarketers and less than 10% of the funds raised were used for charitable programs. AVF failed to disclose that the Michigan Attorney General issued a cease and desist order related to false and misleading statements it made in charitable solicitations. The Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts issued a cease and desist order against AVF, prohibiting it from soliciting in California and assessing \$33,000 in penalties. The cease and desist order can be viewed [HERE](#).
- **VietNow:** Over the course of two years, VietNow collected \$4 million, but spent less than \$10,000 on charitable programs benefitting veterans. In its filings with the Registry of Charitable Trusts, VietNow provided materially false statements about the percentage of revenue it spent on its charitable programs and also failed to disclose enforcement

actions taken against it in Michigan. The Registry of Charitable Trusts issued a Cease and Desist Order prohibiting VietNow from operating or soliciting donations in California. Thereafter, California entered into a settlement with VietNow joined by 20 other states. As the result of the settlement, VietNow is in the process of being dissolved and will distribute its remaining assets to other charities that provide programs supporting veterans. The settlement also provided for the resignation of all of VietNow's directors and officers, and some of the directors are permanently banned from being employed or holding any fiduciary position with a charitable organization. The settlement can be found [HERE](#).

- **Wounded Warriors Support Group:** Attorney General Becerra filed a lawsuit against Wounded Warriors Support Group and its directors. The complaint seeks the recovery of misused charitable donations due to the directors' alleged breach of fiduciary duty and also seeks to dissolve the charity. The complaint alleges that the operators ran raffles to raise funds purportedly to support veterans, but instead, they diverted the funds for their personal expenses. The litigation is ongoing. A copy of the lawsuit can be found [HERE](#).
- **America's Heroes Foundation:** America's Heroes Foundation failed to file financial reports for multiple years, and it was sent a Suspension Notice. Because the organization failed to appeal the suspension, its registration was revoked. The organization was also suspended by the IRS, the California Secretary of State, and the Franchise Tax Board. A copy of the final revocation notice can be found [HERE](#).

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