



**Date:** August 1, 2006  
**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**From:** Bonnie Lowenthal, Vice Mayor *BL*  
Val Lerch, Ninth District Councilmember *Val*  
**Subject:** **Parking Exemptions for War Heroes**

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The City of Long Beach is proud to support the men and women who serve with honor and dignity in our nation's armed forces. In an effort to pay appropriate tribute to the heroes who have fought bravely and sacrificed tremendously in defense of freedom and liberty, I would like to explore the possibility of providing exemptions for specified veterans from certain municipal parking fees within the City of Long Beach.

Parking fee exemptions have been adopted by the City of Culver City and the City of Fresno with much success. In those municipalities, persons who have been issued a Medal of Honor, Legion of Valor, Purple Heart, Pearl Harbor Survivor, or Former American Prisoners of War receive a special license plate from the California Department of Motor Vehicles and are allowed to park in City-owned lots or at metered parking spaces without charge. Compliance with all other parking regulations is enforced, including street sweeping and permit parking.

Providing parking fee exemptions in City lots and on metered streets would be a small but significant gesture in celebration of the selfless service and sacrifice of our most distinguished veterans.

**Recommendation:**

I respectfully request that this matter be referred to the City Manager for a report back to the Council within 90 days on the analysis of an ordinance exempting vehicles belonging to specified classifications of veterans from certain municipal parking fees.