



State Agency Recognition Awards (SARA) John K. Lopez Awards

Each year, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) honors two Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE) at the State Agency Recognition Awards (SARA) Ceremony. One Lopez Award is given for Business Excellence and the other for Individual Excellence. This year the SARA will be held virtually in Spring 2022.

John K. Lopez, a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, was instrumental in helping the State of California establish a DVBE program in 1989. Over the years, John's devotion to the program has impacted everyone he has met. This award is dedicated to his memory.

The John K. Lopez award recognizes DVBE entrepreneurship excellence. Award recipients demonstrate leadership in the veteran community as an advocate for the DVBE program, participation in community programs that provide other DVBEs with opportunities in sub-contracting and business development, and a commitment to hiring veterans.

Completed nominations must be received via email (DVBE@calvet.ca.gov) no later than January 21, 2022.

Nomination rating criteria items 1 through 4 below must be completed in full to be considered for an award. Awardees will be notified prior to the event and honored at the virtual SARA. Self-nominations will be considered. If you have any questions please contact the CalVet DVBE team at DVBE@calvet.ca.gov.

Rating Criteria for the California Department of Veterans Affairs John K. Lopez Award

Please address all criteria listed below:

1. Describe how the DVBE demonstrates a leadership role in the veteran's community as an advocate for the DVBE program. For example, participation in DVBE organizations, promoting DVBE programs at the local county/city/community levels, supporting DVBE legislation, participation on the DVBE Advisory Council or other community based councils/commissions, or working directly with state agencies to promote the DVBE program.
2. Provide examples of how the DVBE assists other DVBEs with opportunities in sub-contracting and/or business development. For example: mentorship, bonding assistance, bid submission assistance, professional training, and networking.
3. Describe how the DVBE is committed to the hiring of veterans. How does it contribute to the DVBE's success or the success of the veteran employees? For example: increased sales and productivity, lower absentee rates, increased employer moral, lower staff turnover, and mentoring of colleagues.

4. Describe how the DVBE demonstrates a commitment to the hiring of qualified veterans/disabled veterans. For example: written policy emphasizing employment of veterans/disabled veterans, direct participation in the Veterans Workforce Investment Program, supporting veteran employment outreach, and providing special accommodations to veterans.