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First I want to thank all the people of San Diego for there great support since we first came forward to address this unfortunate matter with Bob Filner. I'm thankful that he has decided to resign instead of dragging this out so the city and it's fine people can start to move forward. I hope that he continues to seek the therapy and help he needs. Many questions and inquiries have been made regarding my situation with the V.A. Immediately after the first news conference I was directly contacted by the San Diego regional office Veterans Benefit Department and by congressman Scott Peters office. His staff offered their assistance to rectify unresolved discrepancies with the V.A. Congressman Peters' staff was instrumental in not only setting up but also attended a meeting with the San Diego VA Benefits Administration and the San Diego La Jolla Veterans Hospital Administration personnel. On August 16, 2013 this meeting was held and it very productive and positive. Those present were all exceptional people.

All my discrepancies were reviewed in detail and addressed accordingly and are being worked on. The major issues have been resolved. The Veterans Benefits Administration acknowledged that there were clear oversights that extended back to the day of my medical discharge from the Marine Corps in 2009. I still strongly encourage my fellow veterans facing complex claims to seek assistance by your local elected officials because honestly that's what their job is. To help all citizens and to do right by its people. I want thank Congressman Peters and the San Diego VA for all their assistance.

I am one of thousands so it does not end here. It is paramount that we stand together towards changing the system so we can greatly shorten the VA backlog and wait time to receive benefits after serving our country. And today is a very special day to me because it's my fathers birthday who has passed. My father, a Marine and a Survivor of the Battle of Iwo Jima. He is my hero and reason for joining the Marine Corps to begin with and I wouldn't change a thing!

Katherine Ragazinno
August 30, 2013

