Helpful Sales Tax Tip — Nonprofit Veterans’ Organizations

When nonprofit veterans’ organizations sell “Buddy Poppies” or similar symbolic, temporary lapel pins, the purchase and sale of the items are not taxable when both of the following conditions are met:

- The pins are sold or purchased by the Veterans of Foreign Wars or other specified organizations.
- The pins memorialize U.S. military veterans killed in foreign wars.

The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) administers California’s sales and use, fuel, tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis taxes, as well as a variety of other taxes and fees that fund specific state programs. CDTFA-administered programs account for over 25 percent of all state revenue. California’s essential services, such as public safety, transportation, health, libraries, schools, social services, and natural resource management programs, are directly supported by these taxes and fees.

Tax programs administered by the CDTFA are concentrated in two general areas — sales and use tax and special taxes and fees.

To best serve our taxpayers, the CDTFA has offices throughout the state along with offices located in New York, Chicago, and Houston. While the CDTFA team is spread out geographically, we are united in working together to accomplish our mission.
California is home to nearly two million veterans who served the country with honor and distinction. Several tax breaks are available to help those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Please review the information in this brochure and online. If you need further assistance, please call 1-800-400-7115 (CRS:711).

**TAX TIPS FOR VETERANS**

**Itinerant Veteran Vendor**
If you are a qualified itinerant veteran vendor, you are the consumer of items owned and sold, except alcoholic beverages or items sold for more than $100, and you are not required to hold a seller’s permit. Instead, you must pay sales or use tax on your purchases of all taxable items that you intend to sell. For more information, see our Tax Guide for Veterans at www.cdtfa.ca.gov/industry/veterans.htm.

**Nonprofit Veterans’ Organization**
If you are a nonprofit veterans’ organization that makes sales of merchandise or goods, you are required to register for a seller’s permit. Generally, items you sell are taxable.

**Sales Made on State-Designated Fairgrounds**
If you are a retailer who makes sales of tangible personal property that take place on real property of a California state-designated fair, you must separately state the amount of those sales on your sales and use tax return. Sales that take place on state-designated fairgrounds include over-the-counter sales on the fairgrounds and may include sales in which the property is shipped or delivered to or from the fairground. The separately reported amount will be used for funding allocation purposes only. There is no additional tax or fee due on these sales.

**Vehicle Allowance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Not Subject to Sales or Use Tax**
Veterans with a service-connected disability may be eligible to receive financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) towards the purchase of a vehicle. Eligible veterans must have VA approval prior to making the purchase. The VA will pay the approved amount directly to the seller and the approved veteran is responsible for paying any remaining cost of the vehicle to the seller. The portion of the vehicle’s purchase prices paid by the VA is considered a sale to the U.S. Government and not subject to sales or use tax.

**NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE?**
If you have additional questions regarding sales and use tax exemptions, please call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-400-7115 (CRS:711). Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time), except state holidays.

For more information, see the CDTFA Tax Guide for Veterans at www.cdtfa.ca.gov/industry/veterans.htm.