

Where are the Veterans in our community?

“ In the military, every single day someone notices you. They notice if you don't show up. It was like I fell off the grid after I got home. If I didn't show up, it didn't matter. If I didn't wake up, it didn't matter. ”

“ I don't think I should be given an edge because of my service. We're just looking for an opportunity, to be given a fair shot. And we're definitely not looking for handouts, just for people to realize the skills that we do have. ”



More than 2.2 million service members make up America's all-volunteer force in the active, National Guard and Reserve components. In Nebraska, more than 145,000 Veterans live in our communities.

What about their families?

“ I miss the way he used to walk in the door and give me this really good eye contact and act excited to see me. Now he has this macho, stern look all the time. ”

“ It kills my wife when I say I want to go back. How could I possibly want to go back? It's caused so many problems. But I feel normal there. ”



The Veteran's family is more than a spouse and kids – parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, and neighbors are all affected by their loved one's service. These families deserve nothing less than our support because family is the heart of Nebraska's communities.

What are their most pressing needs?

“ Guard and reservists like me have to get right back into civilian life. We're constantly bouncing between two different worlds...between the military, with its clear rules and strong camaraderie, and a civilian life that can seem frivolous and baffling. ”

“ A lot of soldiers have difficulty when they can't find a job. They have a tool belt with no tools. They wonder why those years and experiences in the military don't count. It felt like the wheels were spinning under me, and I was depressed about getting out of the military. ”



Regardless of where or how they serve, Veterans and their families return to our community different from when they left, with needs as diverse and individual as they are. That's why we have to intentionally collaborate as a community to fill the gaps in service.

This is our call to action –

In the next 5 years, over 1 million men and women will leave the military and enter the civilian workforce or institutions of higher learning. Let's prepare our Nebraska communities to better serve our Veterans and their families. **The Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD)** is rallying a team of businesses, elected officials, community leaders, faith-based organizations, non-profits, and government agencies to better assist Veterans and their families as they transition into their jobs, schools, and communities. What role will you play?

★ Join us – call 402.904.7983



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