



Say 'thank you' to a veterans today

■ BY DELORES SAVAS

“What is a Veteran?”

A “Veteran” - whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserved; is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made out, payable to “The United States of America, for an amount of “up to and including his life.”

That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country today, who no longer understand that fact.”

Shari Myhre, writer



These two small words said with gratitude to the men and women who protected our freedom in this country acknowledges the gift that was given to all Americans. And now in the conflict all around us we must remember the actions of those who put on a uniform during all the past encounters that jeopardized us, not knowing if they would return in their military garb or body bag.

However, freedom comes at a high cost to those who protect it. Military members often make the ultimate sacrifices for the betterment of America. They gave us the comfort and safety of home, time with our loved ones, at the expense of their physical and mental health, and many times their life.

Discharge from the armed service by our soldiers does not mean that could now return to normal activities and enjoy their lives.

Consider that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest health care system in the United States. Providing care at 1,321 health care facilities, including 172 VA medical centers and 1,138 outpatient sites of care of varying complexes (VA outpatient clinics) to over nine million veterans enrolled in the VA.

While the VA is important to all vet-

erans, there is other help in the background. There is a special bond between veterans that the average person does not get. Veterans take care of their own. There are hundreds of organizations that help one of their own, a veteran. The average person has no knowledge of the scars of war that many veterans still carry. Only another veteran understands.

While many seek to help these organizations with time and labor, it is wise to check out any organization you may want to join.

There are more than 45,000 military and veteran non-profits in the United States. It is hard to know which ones are legitimate and worth your time and hard-earned money. You need to know whether your donations are funding services for those who need.

Some of the organizations below are worth looking into, they have exceptional rating on helping veterans who suffer a host of injuries, they have been recognized as a trusted organization. One is the Gary Sinise Foundation. They serve those in need by creating and supporting unique programs designed to entertain, educate, inspire, strengthen. And build communities, 91.12 percent of funds go to their programs.

Another high-rated group is the

Fisher House Foundation, that provides free housing and “a home away from home” for the families of patients receiving medical care at military and VA medical centers. Since its founding in 1990 By Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, the organization has helped more than 305,000 families, saving more than \$360 million in out-of-pocket costs for housing and transportation.

The Honor Flight Network transports American’s military veterans to Washington, D.C. to give them the opportunity to visit the memorials dedicated to their service and the service of their friends. Top priority is given to senior or WWII vets and veterans who are struggling with terminal illnesses.

Dusty Hopkins, publisher, and general manager of the Boca Beacon signed up for the Punta Gorda-based flight. Dusty served during the Vietnam War as a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, working as a crew member of the Strategic Air Command’s B-52 Unit. He was moved by the people who greeted them and the support generated from them.

There are many good veteran organizations that you could support or join in your own neighborhood.

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tage, For More Information

A special memory to share of My Uncle Ed, who was a paratrooper in WW2 and was shot down while forced to exiting his plane He lost a leg from the incident. He suffered from the pain of his injury for all his years and yet at the age of 85 he drove fellow injured vets to clinics for the help they needed. His memory lives on as he was always smiling and gave his time to his fellow soldiers.

And by the way, if you happen to hear a lot of OOH-Rahs, the local call when one Marine meet or sees another Marine while walking or shopping or eating in local eateries, do not be surprised. Many a shopping trips have been interrupted with hubby, a proud Mariene, when two ‘jar heads’ bump into each other, and of course service stories are shared

November 10th is the birthday of the United States Marine Corps. The Core celebrated its birthday, on 1799 until 1921 when the date was permanently changed to November 10th to commemorate the establishment of the Corps to aid in the Revolutionary War. Happy Birthday to all Marines, “Semper Fideles”

Fly your flags on this special day. Too many have left their flags in their closets to busy to fly our flag. Remember our men and women were not too busy to defend you.

A Remembrance

A special remembrance of son Lorn an island child who died to soon on November 10, 1993 in an automobile accident on the island. A tribute to his love of nature and life, and gulf waters, songs, poems and his playing his guitar. His memory lives on in many ways. He is missed ... waste - wbur.ora.here and now/2022/

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