



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

American Veterans site connects vets with vital resources

The men and women who serve our country in the military do so for various reasons. It could be to carry on a family tradition, out of a sense of duty, to get an education, to get a job or as a career. Whatever the reasons, it takes a certain amount of courage, discipline and honor to serve. Military service carries great personal risk, and the need to defend our country is real. We civilians owe those who serve honorably our gratitude and respect.

While there are many benefits to individuals who enlist, service — particularly in combat — does not come without negative impacts for some. Statistics show higher rates of suicide, post-traumatic stress, homelessness and other problems for military veterans.



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InSites

There are many resources available to help veterans with these serious issues, but they may not know how to access them.

AMVETS.org is the website for American Veterans, an organization dedicated to connecting veterans to the services they're entitled to, and improving their lives in general. The organization has been around since World War II and advocates for members of all branches of the armed forces, including the National Guard and Reserve. The site is a good starting point for any veteran

looking for help with serious issues or even everyday concerns, such as finding health care, looking for work or paying for education. It also offers veterans opportunities to continue serving through volunteer efforts in their communities.

The homepage features standard navigation links across the top that take you to the various sections on the site. It also has three prominent links in the middle of the page for what I'm guessing are its most popular features. The Get Healthcare link takes you to a second site, **amvetshealprogram.org**. You have to scroll all the way down the page through descriptions of the various AMVETS Heal programs to get to the actual contact information for help. There's a phone number and an email for

VET HEAL Helpline and a number for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

The second prominent link is Find Employment. This page has a section on writing resumes and cover letters, and gives tips for job interviews. Another section has a list of links to educational resources. There's also sections on career services, including job listings, career centers that can pair you with career coaches, and career assessment, which can help you find the best career for you.

The third link is File A VA Claim. This section walks you through the process of filing a claim for disability compensation with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The What We Do link at the top of the page connects to the vari-

ous other resources on the site. There are legislative advocacy efforts vets can learn about or engage with. There are scholarships and grant money available for starting businesses. The Reintegrating Warriors program helps people transition from military to civilian life. The AMVETS in Action program connects veterans with many opportunities for community involvement.

Other sections of the site deal with becoming a member of AMVETS, media reports on the organization and events for veterans. The site won't win any awards for design, but it has lots of good information for veterans and is easy to navigate.

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