



8 STRATEGIES

to SUPPORT THOSE WHO SERVED



1

Ask the question *“Did you serve?”* instead of *“Are you a veteran?”* to help establish rapport since not all who served identify as veterans.

- Modify customer contact process to identify whether members, clients or visitors served, or their immediate family members.

5

Build social connectivity

- Be intentional and invitational
- Reach out to those who served
- Invite them to activities (formal and casual)
- Ask how you could support their need for social connectedness, community, and new calling.

2

Be informed about resources available through Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN):

- Individual and group peer support
- Veteran mental health & Suicide Prevention training
- Warm handoff to local resources based on individual need
- Active listening & trauma-informed support

6

Host community resource fair providing volunteer opportunities to build social connectedness, a sense of community and rekindled life purpose.

- TexVet, trusted state resource guide - <https://www.texvet.org/>
- PSCs - <https://www.milvetpeer.net/>

3

Consider creating military or veteran affinity groups or service groups.

- Establish **Veterans Champions** within your congregations or **Veterans Peers** within your organizations.

7

Learn about veterans’ behavioral health-related issues and speak to the subject at events, articles, and bulletins:

- Faith, Hope, Life Campaign - <https://theactionalliance.org/faith-hope-life>

4

Learn about military culture and build awareness since less than 1% of U.S. adults served in the military.

- Texas Veterans Commission (TVC), Veterans Mental Health Department (VMHD) <https://veteransmentalhealth.texas.gov/>
- MVPN TVC-Certified Peer Service Coordinators (PSCs) - <https://www.milvetpeer.net/>

8

Train your staff on simple, evidence-based methods proven to reduce suicide via <https://veteransmentalhealth.texas.gov/>

- Military Cultural Competency & Military-Informed Care
- Crisis Intervention Training ● Suicide Prevention/Intervention/Postvention
- Military-Related Traumas such as: Moral Injury; Military Sexual Trauma; Post-traumatic Stress; and Traumatic Brain Injury

BE AWARE

Community & Faith-based Partners

BE THERE

Faith and Allegiance Initiative[®]



*Just as those who served in uniform swore to bear true **Faith and Allegiance** to our Nation, we choose to rally around them and their families to do the same by offering social connectivity, community, and new calling.*



Faith & Allegiance Initiative©

Affirm that you will bear true Faith and Allegiance to those who served by offering your hand in support.

Faith and Allegiance Initiative®

Founder - John Wilson
Lt Col, USAF Retired

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For more information contact:



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