



STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT



HOMELESS VETERANS

THIS YEAR STATE Commander Tom Howard has chosen Homeless Veterans as his Special Project. Since Past State Commander Dennis Sullivan and Michael Burke's effort to help reduce the Veteran homeless population, our veterans continue to experience homelessness in record numbers.

Since the project of our two past Commanders, the Veteran homeless population has risen from 17% to 50% and continues to grow. Although flawless counts are impossible to come by – the transient nature of homeless populations presents a major difficulty – the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that 40,056 veterans are homeless on any given night. Affairs estimated that there were 76,000 veterans sleeping in the streets and increasing . In 2011, there were 1,700 homeless female veterans and also on the rise. Veterans spend an average of six years homeless. Research shows that the greatest risk factors for homelessness are lack of support and social isolation after discharge.

Homeless veterans include having served in World War II, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Iraq and other locations around the world.

Monetary Donation Support:

- **All monetary donations to the Special Project will be divided evenly throughout the 9 Districts for them to donate to a Homeless Veterans Facility**

Take Action

- **Veterans who are homeless or risk of becoming homeless can call or visit their local VA Medical Center or Community Resource and Referral Center**
- **Veterans and their families can call 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838)**
- **Web site va.gov/homeless to learn more**

Donations can be made to the program through the Department of New York by mailing all donations to: Department of New York Commander's Special Project:

**69 Sand Creek Road
Albany, NY 12205**