

# ***STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT***

## **Homeless Veterans**

**Background:** This year State Commander Daniel Kell has chosen Homeless Veterans as his Special Project. Since Past State Commanders Dennis Sullivan, Michael Burke and Thomas Howard's efforts to help reduce the Veteran homeless population, our veterans continue to experience homelessness in record numbers.

Although flawless counts are impossible to come by – the transient nature of homeless populations presents a major difficulty. In 2023 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that 35,574 veterans are homeless on any given night. Veterans Affairs estimated that there were 76,000 veterans sleeping in the streets and increasing. This reflects a 7.4% increase in the number in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness from 2022. Despite the increases there is still an overall downward trend in veteran homelessness. In 2023 there was 3,126 to 3,980 homeless female veterans and on the rise. Veterans spend an average of six years homeless. Research shows that the greatest risk factor for homelessness are lack of support and social isolation after discharge.

Homeless veterans include those having served in World War II, Korea, 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 11 Districts for them 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 (1-977-424-3838)
- Website [va.gov/homeless](http://va.gov/homeless) to learn more

**Department Special Project Chairman: Vincent Scalise**

**Your generous donation should be made out to: Department of NY VFW**

**Mailed to: Department of NY VFW  
Attn: Commander's Special Project  
69 Sand Creek Road  
Albany, NY 12205**

June 8, 2024