

[HTTPS://WWW.MILITARYVETSOFAMERICA.ORG](https://www.militaryvetsofamerica.org)



As we usher in the new year, I'm thrilled to share our ambitious goals and expectations for the coming months. Our dedicated board, comprising seasoned Veterans and visionary leaders, is geared to steer us toward unprecedented heights. First, we're proud to unveil our revamped **website**, a user-friendly hub designed to enhance your experience and accessibility. Moreover, we're launching an innovative, comprehensive educational program tailored to empower Veterans on their academic journeys. This initiative reflects our pledge to provide holistic support beyond healthcare, addressing the unique challenges our heroes encounter post-service. We will continue to provide our whole-health approach to health care advocacy through case work, webinars, fact sheets, and meetings with governmental entities fighting for our Veterans.

In 2024, let's build a stronger, more connected community. Together, we'll overcome challenges and celebrate triumphs. Here's to a year of growth, resilience, and unwavering support.

Andrew Vernon, MHA, M.Ed., CAPM
Chief Executive Officer

Meet the Board of Directors



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ACTION PLAN:

- **JANUARY 2024**
 - DC TRIP TO VISIT 9 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE, THE SENATE VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNSEL TO THE MAJORITY, AND THE HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF
- **JANUARY 2024**
 - NEW BALANCE MVoA STORE OPEN FROM JAN 2 to JAN 16 (SEE PAGE 2)
 - NEXT STEP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS OPEN JAN 2
 - THE NEXT STEP PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR MON JAN 29, 7PM EST (SEE PAGE 2)
- **FEBRUARY 2024**
 - NEXT STEP PROGRAM APPLICATION CLOSES FEB 2
 - NEXT STEP PROGRAM COHORT 1 BEGINS FEB 19
- **MARCH 2024**
 - HEALTH POLICY WEBINAR TBA
 - CAPITOL HILL VISIT TBA

If you're a Veteran in a **mental health crisis, considering suicide**—or you know a Veteran who's struggling—get help right away. You're not alone.
CALL 988 +1

At Military Veterans of America, we recognize the distinct challenges Veterans face in education. Our unique educational advocacy program goes beyond traditional support, offering personalized academic advising, care planning, and coaching. We are dedicated to empowering Veterans on their educational journey, ensuring they thrive in academic and post-military pursuits. Join us in championing Veterans' success because every hero deserves a tailored and comprehensive approach to education that aligns with their goals and aspirations.

Academic Advising Team



John Brewster, MBA
Executive VP/ COO



Gabriella Leverance, MS
Assistant VP

We are now on **Youtube!**
Follow Us on Our Social Media
For the Latest News and
Interact With Us!

@military_va
@militaryveteransofamerica



MAKE A DONATION



Support Military Veterans of
America's mission today.

What We've Been Up To

The **Next Step Program** is a six-month **Leadership Mentoring and Career Development Plan** for Veterans, conducted through bi-weekly Zoom workshops. Led by expert Gabriella Leverence, the program covers leadership development, academic/career exploration, and professional growth. Workshops address effective communication, teamwork, goal setting, and time management. The **Academic/Career Exploration** segment guides Veterans through self-assessment, interest mapping, career research, networking, and mentorship. **Professional Development** workshops focus on resume writing, interview skills, and personal branding. Local professionals and leaders engage as guest speakers while mentoring pairs students with local mentors for guidance. Continuous evaluation ensures relevance, making it a transformative initiative for Veterans' advancement. **Learn more about the Next Step Program and our TAP refresher course here:**



Welcome to Our Spring 2024 Interns:

Adeline Hatfield, Miami University of Ohio
Sydney Gochenauer, MD, St. George's University
Alisa Andrews, UNC Chapel Hill
Mia Vena, Miami University of Ohio
Loren Dombroski, University of South Florida



In a poignant **op-ed** published in the **Portland Press Herald of Maine**, **Adeline Hatfield**, our Health Policy Intern at Military Veterans of America, addresses the pressing issue of **Veteran mental health**. Highlighting a tragic incident following a Senate hearing, Hatfield advocates for the effectiveness of **988 +1** as a solution to the complex problem of Veteran suicides. Despite the hotline's success, Hatfield highlights critical challenges, including well-trained responders, wait times, and staffing issues. She emphasizes the need for a state-focused approach, citing varied state legislations supporting 988. Hatfield calls for community-based evaluation and Veteran involvement in solutions and stresses that 988 +1 must evolve into a reliable and standardized resource for Veterans in need.

Check out the full op-ed here: bit.ly/4a1Fxn



Let us know what topics and concerns you want us to address!
Contact us: <https://www.militaryvetsofamerica.org/contact-for-assistance/mvoa>

Key points emerged in our recent meeting with **Rep Mike Levin (CA)** on the **Transition Assistance Program (TAP)**. Different services vary in TAP execution, with Ft. Liberty and Naval Norfolk excelling due to civilian staff with prior transitions. Camp Lejeune relies on Unit Transition Coordinators but faces challenges, with only 25% meeting deadlines. Oversight responsibility differs, with Camp Lejeune under the OIG and Ft. Liberty having limited oversight. Data transparency and reporting to Congress need improvement. In-class dynamics vary, with Camp Lejeune prioritizing in-person sessions while Ft. Liberty offers online options. There's a suggestion to enhance pre-class preparation and allocate more time to critical topics like homelessness and practical issues. **We will continue to monitor the state of TAP and aid its improvement in the future.**



FACT: From 2010 to 2020, **Veteran homelessness** decreased by over 55 percent. However, in January 2022, there were still over 30,000 Veterans experiencing homelessness. We are looking to end Veteran homelessness and ask if you are a homeless or at-risk Veteran, you consider looking at the following resources.

- National Homeless Veteran Call Center 877-4AID VET (877-424-3838)
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans 1-800-VET-HELP
- Homeless Veterans' Program 1-877-222-8387
- Vet Center Call Center (Confidential) 1-877-927-8387
- Find a VA center near you. [Veterans Need Eviction Assistance](#).



Exciting news! We've partnered with **New Balance** to offer our gear. Shop now and support Veterans with every purchase. Check out our exclusive store to purchase products and support our Veterans!

Store CLOSING JANUARY 16, 2024. For more information about our New Balance collection, email andrew@militaryvetsofamerica.org

Scan the QR Code below to shop our collection!

