6 Ideas for Assisting Veterans, Service Members, and Their Families

Jim Vogel [jim@elderaction.org]



Maybe you live in an area that is also home to lots of veterans, active service members, and their families. You might be wondering how you can help them out! You can start lending a hand by getting involved. These tips from The Coalition of Spiritfilled Churches will also show you how to hire veterans, help them find online degree programs, and more.

Hire Veterans

Do you run a business or work in your company's human resources department? You may be able to help veterans by hiring them! Veterans are typically assets to their employers they're highly adaptable, possess great problem-solving skills, and often come prepared with impressive credentials.

Veteran candidates for new job openings have likely gotten certified with certain skills and technology in the military. They also have to adapt to new environments and unexpected situations on a regular basis. Furthermore, veterans are used to solving complex problems as part of a team, which is necessary for every worker today.

Help Veterans Pursue Education

Whether you want to provide educational benefits to your veteran employees or if you'd simply like to help a friend of yours who served in the military pursue their education, it's a good idea to connect the veterans in your life with online degree programs.

Veterans often benefit from enrolling in online programs because

doing coursework remotely makes it easier to balance studying with full-time work and family life. Additionally, lots of online degree programs are applicable across multiple industries, like business, accounting, information technology, and more.

Do you have a few free weeknights or weekend afternoons that you could spend volunteering? Plenty of organizations that support veterans and military families could use your contributions! Depending on your skill set, you may be able to assist with training service dogs, connecting veterans with medical care, or even modifying homes. Check in with local organizations to see if your skills are in need.

Send Thoughtful Care Packages

Photo via Pexels

Perhaps you have a friend, relative, or old neighbor who is currently serving in the military. Why not brighten their day by sending a care package? Military.com recommends including powdered drink mix, snacks, meal enhancers like condiments, candy and gum that won't melt, toiletries, and, of course, fun personal items, like letters, mementos from home, or paperback books. Your loved one will be happily surprised when their care package shows up!

Volunteer Your Time

Assist Local Families

Do you know of any local families who <u>have a deployed loved one</u>? You may have a friend whose husband has been stationed overseas while she takes care of their children on her own, or perhaps your coworker's spouse is preparing for their first deployment. Ask the military families you know if there is anything that you can do to help. They might be looking for childcare, flexible job opportunities, or simply a friend to rely on when they're missing their loved one.

Donate to Charities

What if you don't have the time to volunteer? Even if you don't have room in your schedule to add volunteering to the mix, you can take a look at your monthly budget to see if you'd be able to set up a recurring donation to a charity or nonprofit organization that supports veterans, active service members, or military families. If you find a charity that seems promising, make sure to research its reputation to check that your funds will actually be going toward the cause.

Many veterans and active service members are in need, as are their families. You can be part of their support systems. With these tips, you'll be ready to hire veterans, help those with military backgrounds further their education, and volunteer your time for military-related causes.