

**2011 NCHV Annual Conference** June 6-8 Washington, D.C.



# Leadership:

## Implementing the Plan To End Veteran Homelessness



**NATIONAL COALITION *for***  
**HOMELESS VETERANS**



# BRINGING VETERANS HOME

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### SUMMIT TO END HOMELESSNESS



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# 2011 NCHV ANNUAL CONFERENCE



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**FOUNDATION**  
Improving homes. Improving lives.

The Home Depot Foundation is the lead sponsor of this year's conference. Having made a commitment of investing \$30 million in housing for veterans over the next three years, the Foundation will have a strong presence at the conference.

The Foundation and NCHV, representing service providers nationwide, will meet to discuss strategies for the Foundation's initiative.

Home Depot Foundation President Kelly Caffarelli will also be the keynote speaker at the Awards Banquet.



**NATIONAL COALITION *for*  
HOMELESS VETERANS**

# A MESSAGE FROM NCHV

## Welcome...

The Board of Directors and Staff of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans welcome you to the 15th Annual NCHV Conference and Membership Meeting. We are gathered again in the Nation's Capital to celebrate the work we all share – saving lives and restoring hope for tens of thousands of homeless veterans and their families across this great nation every year. But we are also assembled to prepare for the challenges that lie ahead.

The theme of the 2011 NCHV Conference is “Leadership: Implementing the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness,” a title that attests to the historic crossroads upon which we stand. For 21 years the community-based organizations NCHV represents have been dedicated to the mission of ending veteran homelessness. Today, that mission is a priority of the administration of President Barack Obama and, with the support of many of you, his team has presented to the nation – and to NCHV – the plan that will achieve that goal.

During the next three days you will meet many of these visionary leaders. But that is just the beginning. You will also meet the founders of the homeless veteran assistance movement; the founders of a community program that has helped more veterans in crisis than any other in U.S. history; the founder of the Homeless Court program; the corporate partners who have embraced our mission as their own; and hundreds of veterans and non-veterans who have dedicated their lives to ending homelessness among veterans.

Our hope is that you drink it all in, and fulfill the most important tenet of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness: provide leadership in developing and implementing the local action plans to end veteran homelessness in our communities. If we do that – and most of us have already committed ourselves to that purpose – we will accomplish the great hope first espoused by the founders of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

That we can even speak these words is a testament to your service. We are proud to welcome you home.

The NCHV Staff  
Washington, D.C.



# OthersFirst

We are proud to be a supporter of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. We commend you for the outstanding services you are providing to our greatest citizens, our United States Veterans. It is an honor to provide financial support to such a worthy cause.



Visit our website at

**CarsHelpingVeterans.org**

and support our service men and women with your vehicle donation today!

**Donate Your Car**  
Support Our Veterans

HOME DONATE NOW FAQ CONTACT US

**Car Donations For Wounded War Veterans. Donate your Car, Truck or Van.**

"One in four homeless persons in America is a United States Veteran." - USA Today

Over 200,000 veterans will sleep on our nation's streets tonight. However, we believe that no one who put his or her life on the line to defend our country should ever have to face the devastating reality of being homeless. The funds raised from your generous car donation will be used to provide food, shelter and clothing to wounded war veterans and Disabled American Veterans, as well as to all men and women who have so courageously served our country.

Your generous car donation makes it possible for us to assist our defenders of freedom in their greatest time of need. The process is easy, towing is free, and your car donation is 100% tax deductible. We accept all types of vehicles. Please use our simple online car donation form.

All gave some, some gave all.

**1 Fill out the simple form**

Use our online car donation form to submit your information.

- Donating your car is easy
- Car donations accepted nationwide

**2 Schedule Your Free Pickup**

We will arrange to pick-up your vehicle on a date that is most convenient for you.

- Any vehicle is accepted
- Free towing for your charity car donation within 24 hours

**3 Receive tax deduction**

Once the vehicle donation is complete, you will receive your tax deductible car donation receipt.

*"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."*

- PRESIDENT AND GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1789

**Your Car**  
Support Our Veterans

HOME DONATE NOW FAQ CONTACT US

**Contact Information**

Mr.  Ms.

First Name  Last Name

Daytime Phone  Ext.  Home

Alternate Phone  Ext.  Cell

Email Address \*

Confirm Email Address

Street Address

City

State  Zip

Select state:

Is the car located at the above address?  
 Yes  No

How did you hear about the Cars Helping Veterans Car Donation Program?

**automobile donation!**

When you donate a car to support our Veterans in their time of need, the process is completely free.

Very easy and secure online car donation process. One of our representatives, please call and our friendly and experienced staff will assist you through the donation process.

To donate a car, one of our representatives will contact you. The towing company will pick up your donated car. All we will need from you is your car title and any keys to the vehicle. Donating a car is completely free.

Once you have received your tax deductible receipt, we will mail you a tow receipt showing that your donated car was picked up on behalf of Cars Helping Veterans. Once we are in possession of your donated car, title, and keys, we will email your IRS tax-deductible receipt in approximately 10 business days.

# SPECIAL GUESTS - OPENING SESSION



**Shaun Donovan,**  
*Secretary,*  
*U.S. Department of*  
*Housing and Urban*  
*Development*



On Jan. 26, 2009, Shaun Donovan was sworn in as the 15th United States Secretary for Housing and Urban Development.

He has devoted his career to ensuring access to safe, decent, and affordable housing, and has continued that effort in the Obama Administration. Secretary Donovan believes that America's homes are the foundation for families, safe neighborhoods, good schools, and job creation.

His tenure as HUD Secretary has reflected his commitment to making quality housing possible for every American. Under Secretary Donovan's leadership HUD has helped stabilize the housing market and worked to keep responsible families in their homes. The agency has instituted reforms that have solidified the Federal Housing Administration's financial position and protected the taxpayer against risk, while still preserving FHA's mission of providing responsible access to homeownership.

Secretary Donovan has reaffirmed HUD's commitment to building strong, sustainable, inclusive neighborhoods that are connected to education and jobs and provide access to opportunity for all Americans. He has launched new initiatives like Choice Neighborhoods, which will enable distressed communities to use proven mixed-use, mixed-finance tools to transform not just federally assisted housing, but the neighborhoods around that housing. And through the new Sustainable Communities partnership with the Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency, HUD is helping regions and communities develop comprehensive housing and transportation plans that create jobs and help American businesses out-innovate their global competitors.

**Barbara Poppe,**  
*Executive Director,*  
*U.S. Interagency*  
*Council on*  
*Homelessness*



Barbara Poppe is the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. In this role, Poppe oversees the federal response to homelessness by working with 19 federal agencies to create a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation. In June 2010, Barbara and four Cabinet Secretaries announced *Opening Doors*, the nation's first-ever comprehensive federal plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Poppe has more than 25 years of nonprofit experience working on homelessness with housing-related organizations. She was appointed to serve as executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness in October 2009.

Poppe served as executive director of the Columbus, Ohio-based Community Shelter Board (CSB) from October 1995 to November 2009. CSB is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that creates collaborations, innovative solutions, and invests in quality programs to end homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio. Poppe provided visible leadership in achieving community-wide homeless services and prevention objectives. She was responsible for strategic planning and collaborative efforts, private sector fundraising, resource development, effective governmental systems and private sector relationships.

In early 2009, under Barbara's leadership, CSB was awarded a HUD Rapid Re-housing Demonstration Project to serve families with children. In 2003 Barbara played a lead role in securing a combined federal grant of \$3.3 million to fund an innovative project to address chronic homelessness in the Columbus community.

**Eric Shinseki,**  
*Secretary,  
U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs*



Retired Army General Eric K. Shinseki was sworn in as the seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs on Jan. 21, 2009.

Shinseki served as Army Chief of Staff from 1999 to 2003, and retired from active duty on Aug. 1, 2003. During his tenure, he initiated the Army Transformation Campaign to address both the emerging strategic challenges of the early 21st century and the need for cultural and technological change in the U.S. Army. Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, he led the Army during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and integrated the pursuit of the Global War on Terrorism with Army Transformation, successfully enabling the Army to continue to transform while at war.

Prior to becoming the Army's Chief of Staff, Secretary Shinseki served as the Vice Chief of Staff from 1998 to 1999. He previously served simultaneously as Commanding General, United States Army, Europe and Seventh Army; Commanding General, NATO Land Forces, Central Europe, both headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany; and Commander of the NATO-led Stabilization Force, Bosnia-Herzegovina, headquartered in Sarajevo.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant of Artillery upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in June 1965 and was attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division as a forward observer from December 1965 to September 1966, when he was wounded in combat in the Republic of Vietnam. He returned to Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, to recuperate and subsequently was assigned as Assistant Secretary, then Secretary to the General Staff, U.S. Army, Hawaii, Schofield Barracks, from 1967-1968. He transferred to Armor Branch and attended the Armor Officer Advanced Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, before returning to Vietnam a second time in 1969. While serving as Commander, Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment, he was wounded a second time in 1970.

Shinseki holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, a Master of Arts degree from Duke University, and is a graduate of the National War College. Shinseki was awarded numerous honors for his military service.

**Ray Jefferson,**  
*Assistant Secretary,  
U.S. Department  
of Labor, Veterans'  
Employment and  
Training Service*



Ray Jefferson is the Assistant Secretary for the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) at the U.S. Department of

Labor. VETS serves as the national advocate for veterans' employment. VETS' mission is to provide veterans and service members with the resources and services to succeed in the 21st century workforce by maximizing their employment opportunities, protecting their employment rights and meeting labor-market demands with qualified veterans.

Prior to being appointed to this role by President Barack Obama, he served as a Leadership Consultant with McKinsey & Company in Singapore where he created and delivered leadership training and development programs for clients and offices throughout Asia. His focus areas were organizational change, inspirational leadership, top team development and peak performance.

Jefferson graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a major in leadership. He served as an Army Officer with the infantry, Rangers and Special Forces, with leadership positions in the U.S. Presidential Honor Guard, 3rd Ranger Battalion and 1st Special Forces Group. While attempting to protect his teammates from a hand grenade detonating prematurely during classified Special Forces training, he lost all five fingers on his left hand. After recuperating in Hawaii, Ray attended Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, earning an MPA in Strategic Management with Distinction as a Littauer Fellow. He then earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and was recognized with the Dean's Award for exceptional leadership and service. Upon graduation, he was selected as a White House Fellow and worked as a Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Jefferson then served as a Fulbright Fellow in Singapore, where he studied leadership within Asian contexts. Afterwards, he served as the Deputy Director for the State of Hawaii's Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT). DBEDT's mission involves creating jobs, facilitating business development, diversifying the economy and creating renewable energy initiatives.

Jefferson was selected by then-Secretary of State Colin Powell as one of the two inaugural recipients of the Harrison H. Schmitt Fulbright Alumni Leadership Award for dedication to public service.

# PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

The Public Policy Forum will dispel rumors and answer questions about the impact of the Five-Year Plan on grant-funded homeless veteran assistance programs. Top officials from HUD, VA and DOL will participate in Q-and-A sessions, directly responding to service providers' concerns. USICH Deputy Director Anthony Love will co-facilitate the forum with NCHV President and CEO John Driscoll. This is a can't-miss session for attendees who plan to meet with their congressional representatives.

**Pete Dougherty** serves as Associate Executive Director of VA's Homeless Veterans Initiatives Office. In this position he coordinates all department-wide efforts to assist homeless veterans with the nation's largest integrated homeless assistance effort. He serves as VA's Senior Policy Representative for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. Dougherty coordinates VA's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and leads a work group that reports to the Deputy Secretary on how VA can better serve veterans coming out of incarceration.



**Gordon Burke** entered the Army in 1972 and retired as a Colonel with over 26 years of service. He served in a variety of Infantry command and staff assignments. He has been a Special Assistant to two Army Chiefs of Staff and served on the Army staff as the Chief of Legislative Liaison for the Army Budget. After retirement, Gordon served as a professional staff member on the Governmental Affairs Committee in the United States Senate. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2001 and the Director of Administration and Management of the Mine Safety and Health Administration. He now serves as the Director of Operations, Grants and Transition Programs in the Veterans' Employment and Training Service of the U.S. Department of Labor where he directs the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program.



**Anthony Love**, USICH Deputy Director, National Programs, most recently served as President and CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, the principal agency for the Homeless Continuum of Care in a county of almost four million people. Love first began work on poverty and homelessness issues more than 15 years ago following the completion of his Master of Arts in Public Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. After returning to Houston, he was named Site Director of the nonprofit U.S. Veterans Initiative. During his leadership there, U.S. VETS Houston became the largest provider of housing and support services to homeless veterans in Texas, providing services to more than 20,000 homeless veterans.



**Mark Johnston** serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He is responsible for administering the Department's \$3.5 billion in assistance for persons who are homeless and those with HIV/AIDS. These funds are used to provide homeless prevention, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, transitional housing, permanent housing and supportive services.



**Vince Kane** directs the National Center on Homelessness among Veterans, and is also the Director of the VA Supportive Housing (VASH) program and the Low Income at Risk Initiative. Kane is the former Administrative Officer for the Office of Mental Health where he assisted in the implementation of Veterans Health Administration Directive 1160.01 of The Mental Health Uniform Services Handbook. He has also served as the administrator for the Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers (MIRECC), Centers of Excellence, and Evaluation Centers for the Office of Mental Health Services and as Coordinator of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Mental Health and Homeless Programs. Kane has more than 20 years of experience as a clinician, educator, and administrator. He has been a site Principal Investigator on several national research projects, including the VA's Homeless After-Care Study and the Federal Partners Initiative for Chronic Homeless Veterans.



*Fannie Mae is proud to be  
a sponsor of the  
2011 National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Annual Conference.*

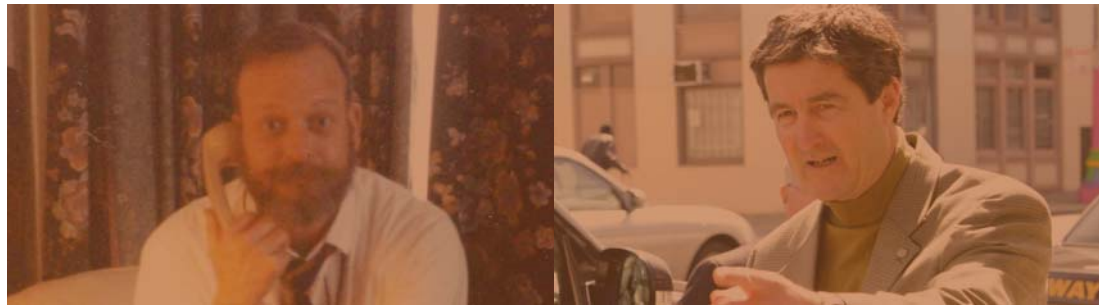


*We salute your commitment  
to end veteran homelessness  
and express our sincere appreciation  
for the work you do.*



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# JERALD WASHINGTON MEM



**The Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award** is the highest honor bestowed in the homeless veteran assistance community. The award honors the memory of Jerald Washington, former organizer of veteran assistance programs in Florida and Tennessee, and a co-founder of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. The award is presented to an individual who embodies the spirit of service and sacrifice displayed by Washington throughout his career, and acknowledges that person's special place in the history of the homeless veteran assistance movement.

Jerald "Jerry" Washington returned home to Tennessee from the Vietnam War and dedicated the remainder of his life to teaching and serving veterans, especially those who were experiencing difficulty readjusting to civilian life after serving in combat. He taught political science at the University of Tennessee and Sul Ross University in Texas, but he will be remembered most for his work to help homeless veterans.

Washington proudly served as one of NCHV's leaders from the organization's founding in 1990 until he died in 2001. He established Base Camp Inc., in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Veterans Community Leadership Corporation in Jacksonville, Florida. He served as president of Vietnam Veterans of America-Tennessee Chapter, and of the Northeast Florida Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Inc., in Jacksonville. During his term of service, NCHV grew from 16 community-based organizations to a coalition of hundreds of service providers and federal partners reaching across America. He was driven by his unconditional devotion to all of this nation's veterans in need, and remains an inspiration to all who knew and served with him.



**2011 – Secretary Shaun Donovan**  
*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Secretary Shaun Donovan has, in support of President Barack Obama's vow to end veteran homelessness, for the first time in U.S. history, placed an emphasis on housing homeless veterans.

With about 37,000 HUD-VASH vouchers signed into law, Donovan has overseen the build-up of the program, with the end of chronic veteran homelessness in sight. Under Donovan's leadership, HUD-VASH has become efficient and effective in getting vouchers in the hands of chronically homeless veterans, and getting them off the street and into housing.

Donovan was the chair of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness when *Opening Doors*, the first ever national plan to end homelessness, was developed and released.

The plan incorporates Secretary Shinseki's Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness. Donovan's close collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs has brought veterans into the fold of mainstream homeless programs. For the first time, veterans will be included in HMIS data and better represented in CoC planning.

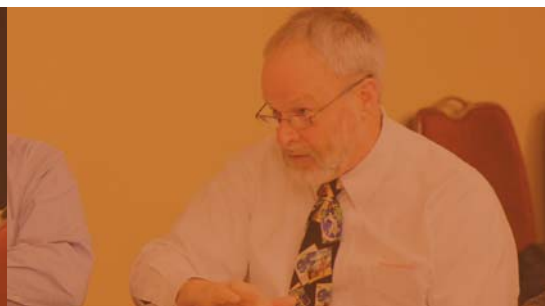
Another first under Donovan's leadership is the inclusion of veterans in the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, HUD's annual report to Congress. This will provide the most accurate and detailed count of homeless veterans to date.

**2010 – Secretary Eric Shinseki**  
*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*

By the summer of 2009, recently appointed VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan had met with the NCHV Board of Directors to pledge their support of the community-based organizations NCHV represents and to share their strategies for working with these organizations to end veteran homelessness. By November, Secretary Shinseki and the Department of Veterans Affairs had developed the basic framework of what is now known as the "Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness."

In less than one year, and for the first time in U.S. history, Secretary Shinseki has helped ensure that

# MEMORIAL FOUNDERS' AWARD



the Department of Veterans Affairs has a strategic plan in place to end and prevent veteran homelessness, a priority of President Barack Obama's administration. The Secretary has met often with officials from other Federal agencies invested in veteran assistance programs, Congressional leadership, and many of the nation's community- and faith-based partners that have helped reduce the number of homeless veterans by more than 50 percent in the last six years.



During his first year in office, VA has established and opened the National Center on Veterans Homelessness; the National Resource Call Center, providing 24-hour assistance for veterans in crisis; and developed strategies to provide emergency and supportive services to homeless veterans with dependent children and extreme low-income veteran families to prevent homelessness.

## 2009 – President Barack Obama *The White House*

In March 2009, President Obama boldly announced record funding increases for veterans' health care and benefits as part of his first budget request to Congress. He then spoke the words that elevated the campaign to end veteran homelessness – NCHV's core mission – to



national priority status:

"And we provide new help for homeless veterans, because those heroes have a home – it's the country they served, the United States of America. And until we reach a day when not a single veteran sleeps on our nation's streets, our work remains unfinished," President Obama declared. Within two months of that announcement, NCHV was invited to the White House to begin a dialogue with the President's advisors that continues to provide insight and recommendations to the Administration.

During the first year of the Obama administration, issues such as expanding housing for chronically homeless and extreme low-income veterans with families, extending VA supportive services and employment supports for single veterans and their dependent children, and funding programs that focus on homelessness prevention became the new fronts in the campaign to end veteran homelessness. The President has ushered in a new era of interagency collaboration never before seen in the nation's homeless veteran assistance community.

With his staff's direction, NCHV conducted the first White House Roundtable on Homeless Veterans at its 2009 Annual Conference in Alexandria, Virginia, and provided policy update briefs throughout the remainder of the year.

## 2008 – Mark Johnston

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs Populations,  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

In 2005, NCHV began a dialogue with HUD to identify the extent to which HUD homeless assistance programs are reaching the homeless veteran population, and to learn how community-based programs can better position themselves to receive a portion of that funding to help their homeless and at-risk veteran clients. Mark Johnston conducted that meeting for HUD, and expressed his commitment to



**"And we provide new help for homeless veterans, because those heroes have a home – it's the country they served, the United States of America. And until we reach a day when not a single veteran sleeps on our nation's streets, our work remains unfinished." – President Barack Obama**

work with NCHV to ensure veteran access to homeless assistance programs nationwide.

By the summer of 2008, HUD had moved to ensure veteran representation in Continuum of Care planning, was awarding points for jurisdictions that identify veterans as a target special needs population, and was making 20,000 HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers available to chronically homeless veterans over the next two years.

Mark, one of the original architects of the HUD-VASH program, regularly updates the NCHV Board of Directors on issues that impact veteran housing and service delivery; annually reports on HUD activities to the NCHV membership at our annual conference; and stands as a champion of effective, interagency cooperation and innovation for the benefit of America's neediest citizens.

### **2007 – Charles “Chick” Ciccolella**

*Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor,  
Veterans' Employment and Training Service*

Assistant Secretary Ciccolella received the Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award in 2007 for meritorious service as the leading advocate for increases in funding for the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) from \$9 million in FY 2000 to more than \$22 million in FY 2006.



Under his direction, HVRP earned the distinction of being recognized as one of the most effective and efficient federal employment assistance programs in the country.

He was largely responsible for the infusion of nearly \$1 million in direct grants for Stand Down programs over a three-year period. By the summer of 2007, nearly 100 communities were conducting Stand Down programs, providing services to more than 28,000 homeless veterans each year.

Ciccolella was instrumental in the Department of Labor's involvement in creating the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program, in partnership with VA, the first federal project to provide pre-release training and support to facilitate successful veteran transition from incarceration and to reduce recidivism.

It was his leadership that inspired NCHV to become a full partner in the campaign to help incarcerated veterans successfully reintegrate back into society.

### **2006 – Rep. Lane Evans** *House Committee on Veterans Affairs*

Rep. Lane Evans was the Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee when he was presented with the Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award. Recognized as a leading veterans advocate in

Congress, he was instrumental in passing the landmark "Comprehensive Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2001," the most far-reaching homeless assistance legislation in U.S. history at that time. Rep. Evans had been a longtime partner with NCHV and played an important role in the creation and strengthening of the Department of Labor Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program and Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program. He was a longtime champion for veterans, and his efforts in Congress to provide services and support for those who have served our country are legendary.



### **2005 – Peter Dougherty**

*Associate Executive Director,  
Homeless Veterans Initiatives Office,  
U.S. Department of  
Veterans Affairs*

From 2001 through the summer of 2005, the Department of Veterans Affairs more than doubled its support of homeless veteran assistance programs in communities across the nation.

The number of community-based organizations receiving grants through the VA Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD) had increased dramatically, and the Department's investment in mental health services had risen as well.

During that period of rapid expansion, Peter Dougherty distinguished himself as the homeless veteran champion within VA, before Congress, and in the service provider community nationwide. He was the bridge of communication between the nation's homeless veteran assistance providers and then-VA Secretary Anthony Principi, and helped the Department develop – and advocated in support of – its legislative initiatives.

For much of that time, Dougherty was the personification of true interagency collaboration, and many of the



successes of NCHV member organizations can be attributed to his leadership.

**2005 – Linda Boone**

*President and CEO,  
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans*

The former President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Linda Boone served NCHV for 11 years, first as a member of the organization's Board of Directors and then as its first President and CEO. Under her stewardship, NCHV's membership grew from less than 40 organizations to more than 230, and the organization established itself as a valued partner of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Labor-Veterans' Employment and Training Service.



**2004 – Thomas Wynn Sr.**

*Center for Veterans Issues*

The Center for Veterans Issues in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pre-dates NCHV by about 20 years. Minority veterans from the Korean and Vietnam wars had no stronger advocate than the Center's founder, the late Thomas Wynn Sr.



From his program rose the National Council of Churches Vietnam Generation Ministry, the first National Incarcerated Veterans Project, and Veterans United for Community Services.

A veteran of the Korean War, Wynn was a co-founder of the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS), and served on the Board of Directors of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

He gave the homeless veteran assistance movement its stronghold in America's heartland, and made certain its embrace included all veterans. Today, NABVETS has chapters in every region of the country.

He was a compassionate teacher and advisor to all who knew him. Wynn was honored during a retirement ceremony in Milwaukee on June 21, 2004, for a lifetime of dedicated service to America's veterans, particularly African American, women and low-income veterans, their families and communities. During the program, he was presented

the 2004 Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award by NCHV President Dr. Charles Haenlein, Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation.

**2003 – Raymond Boland**

*Secretary, Wisconsin  
Department of Veterans  
Affairs*

Ray Boland, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, was presented the Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award in 2003 for his work in developing a comprehensive statewide assistance program for veterans in crisis. Under his leadership, the Wisconsin department was recognized as one of the nation's most innovative and responsive to veterans' needs.

Boland was a strong partner for community-based homeless veteran assistance programs; a driving force in policy initiatives at the local, state and federal levels; and provided leadership during the early history of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans that fostered rapid growth in membership and influence. Though he has since retired, Boland continues to work with organizations seeking to develop housing opportunities for veterans transitioning out of homelessness and extreme low-income veteran families.

**2002 – Eileen Connors**

*U.S. Department of Labor*

Eileen Connors was working at the Department of Labor when the founders of NCHV first met at the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program conference in Florida in 1990 and decided it was time for America to support its veterans in crisis. She helped the organization during its infancy by providing staff support, understanding and encouragement. She was credited with opening doors between the founders and influential federal agency personnel, and providing enough belief in their cause to inspire them to continue their fight when it seemed more sensible to surrender.

During the 2002 NCHV Annual Conference, while she was at home battling an illness from which she would not recover, the founders presented Connors with the first Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award. That tribute is cemented in the memory of virtually everyone who witnessed it, and Connors' inspiration lives on because of the founders' expression of gratitude for her unbreakable spirit.

During the 2002 NCHV Annual Conference, while she was at home battling an illness from which she would not recover, the founders presented Connors with the first Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award. That tribute is cemented in the memory of virtually everyone who witnessed it, and Connors' inspiration lives on because of the founders' expression of gratitude for her unbreakable spirit.



# NCHV ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

## Thomas Wynn Sr. Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement

To a person whose lifetime reflects a strong devotion to bringing attention and services to homeless veterans.

## Outstanding Member Award

To the NCHV member that has demonstrated leadership in coalition building.

## Meritorious Service Award

To a person who exemplifies service to NCHV, its members, and homeless veterans in general.

## Unsung Hero Award

To a person who has contributed to the recognition of the homeless veteran issue in a supporting or unrecognized leadership role.

## Department of Veterans Affairs Staff Award

To a VA staff member who has exhibited a strong commitment to the service of homeless veterans.

## Corporate Partner Award

To a corporation whose contributions have helped increase the effectiveness of the homeless veterans movement.



## Keynote Speaker



**Kelly Caffarelli,**  
*President,*  
*The Home Depot Foundation*

Kelly Caffarelli joined The Home Depot Foundation in 2003 soon after its creation. As president of the Foundation and a member of its Board of Directors, she works to implement the Foundation's strategic focus and mission of supporting nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving the homes and facilities

that serve disadvantaged families and individuals. Under her leadership, the Foundation has granted over \$270 million to nonprofit organizations improving homes and lives in local communities.

During her tenure as president, the Foundation has become the leading corporate philanthropic organization supporting the development of affordable homes in healthy communities. Examples of the Foundation's accomplishments during this time include:

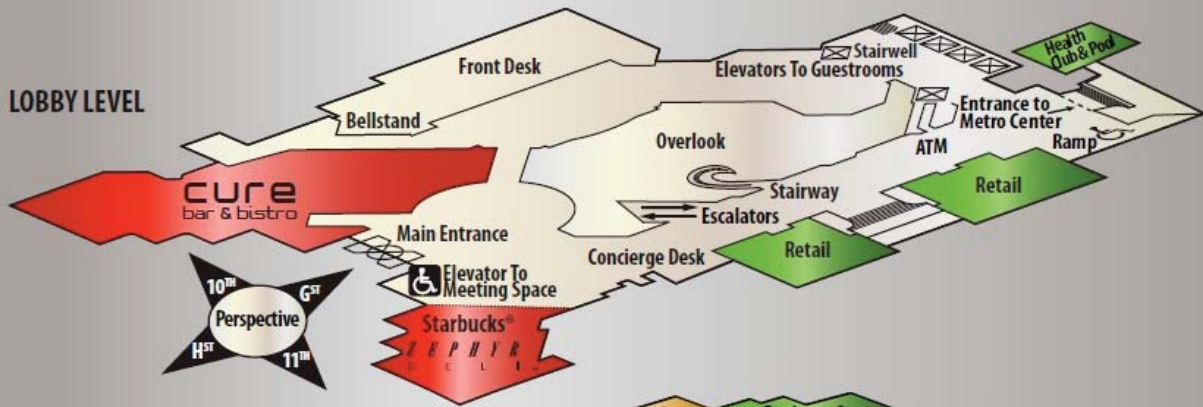
- Pledging \$30 million over three years to take on veterans housing issues.
- Making a long-term commitment in 2007 to invest \$400 million to build and rehabilitate 100,000 affordable homes, plant three million trees across the country and help cities incorporate sustainability into their policies and operations. In just four short years, the Foundation accomplished its goal, having built over 150,000 healthy homes in our communities.
- Establishing the Framing Hope Product Donation Program that has

- provided \$100 million of product to nonprofits and diverted more than 35,000 tons of good usable merchandise from landfills.
- Partnering with local governments, nonprofits, and developers following the terrible destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina in the communities along the Gulf Coast. Caffarelli's strategic vision led to the creation of a collaboration of nonprofits that created rebuilding initiatives focused on re-establishing the communities in a smart, affordable and sustainable way.
- Providing opportunities for associates, suppliers and community members to contribute their time, talent and resources while creating meaningful impact in the community through Team Depot, an associate-led volunteer program.
- Managing The Homer Fund, an emergency nonprofit financial assistance program specifically for associates (employees) of The Home Depot. Since its inception in 1999, the Fund has granted over \$50 million to more than 45,000 associates in severe financial hardship due to natural disaster or family illness.

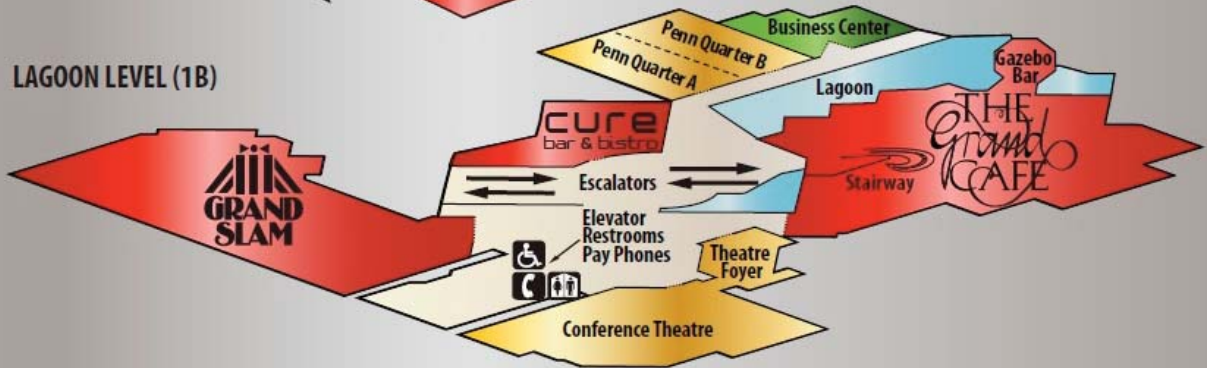
In 2005, Caffarelli was featured as one of "10 Women Saving the Planet," by Atlanta Woman magazine. In 2007, she was recognized by LINC Housing as an Affordable Housing Leader and in 2008, she was named the Louis Stokes Urban Neighborhood Hero by the Cleveland Housing Network.

Caffarelli currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Local Initiative Support Corporation, the National Building Museum, the Woodruff Arts Center, the Piedmont Park Conservancy, and the Georgia Conservancy. She is a frequent speaker and online author of articles on subjects including sustainable communities, affordable housing, green buildings, volunteerism and philanthropy.

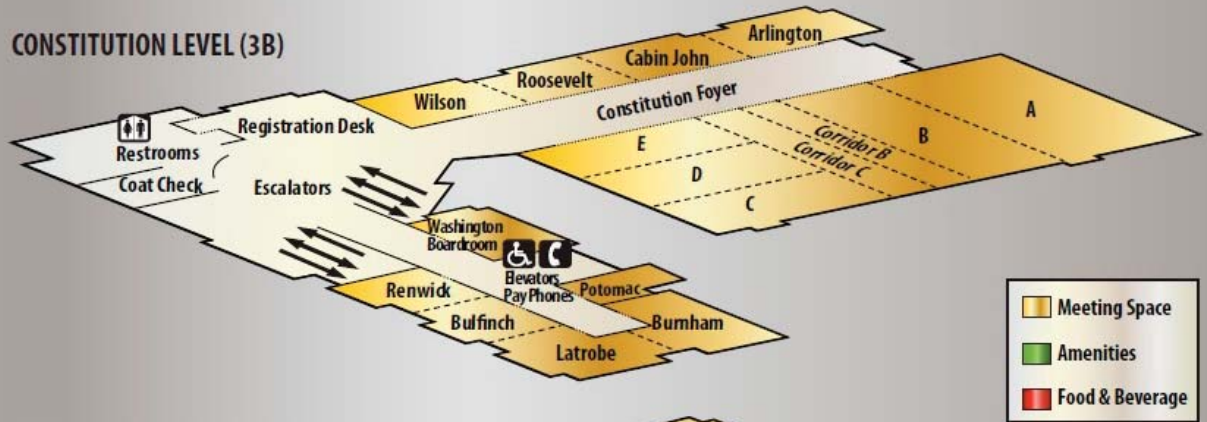
**LOBBY LEVEL**



**LAGOON LEVEL (1B)**

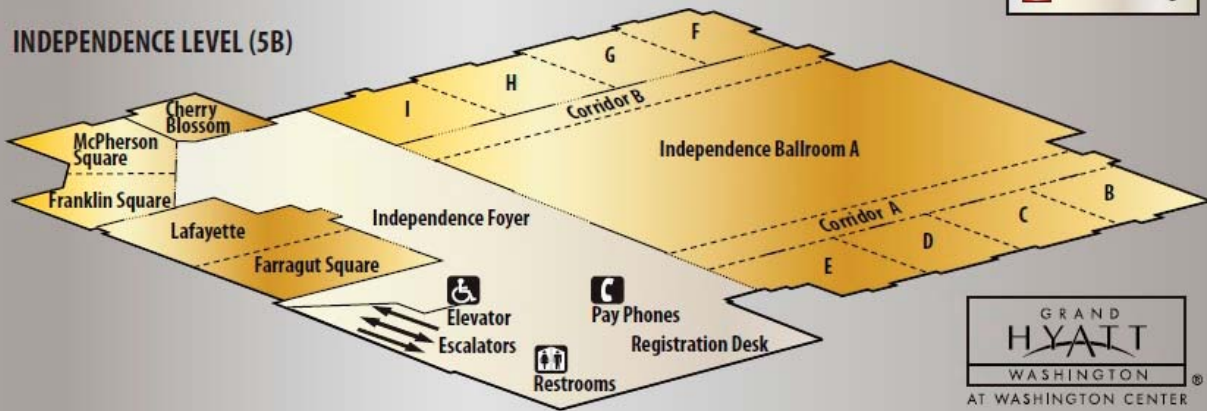


**CONSTITUTION LEVEL (3B)**



	Meeting Space
	Amenities
	Food & Beverage

**INDEPENDENCE LEVEL (5B)**



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**Monday, June 6**

Registration – *Constitution Foyer*, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Opening Session – *Constitution AB*, 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

NCHV Members Meeting – *Constitution AB*, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Welcome Luncheon – *Constitution AB*, 12:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Public Policy Forum – *Constitution CDE*, 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Afternoon Sessions One, 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**

NYC's Homeless Veterans: Ready, Willing & Able to Return Home – *Conference Theater*

Building Bridges Where They Sleep: Chronic Homelessness – *Wilson/Roosevelt*

**Afternoon Sessions Two, 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.**

Engaging Philanthropy in Ending Veteran Homelessness – *Conference Theater*

Collaboration: How to Get Started – *Wilson/Roosevelt*

**Tuesday, June 7**

Registration – *Constitution Foyer*, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Morning Sessions One, 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

Permanent Supportive Housing and Shared Housing for Homeless Veterans – *Wilson/Roosevelt*

Accessing VA Regional Office Resources for Homeless Veterans – *Constitution E*

Introduction to the Burton Blatt Institute (HVRP) – *Constitution D*

ABA: Strategic Partnerships that End Homelessness Among Veterans – *Constitution C*

VHA Efforts to End Homelessness Among Veterans – *Constitution B*

**Morning Sessions Two, 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

Therapeutic Community: Safety and Security Needs in Transitional Housing – *Wilson/Roosevelt*

Bridging the Benefits Gap: Social Security Disability for Veterans – *Constitution E*

Introduction to the Burton Blatt Institute (HVRP) – *Constitution D*

ABA: How to Secure Discharge Upgrades and Benefits – *Constitution C*

Data Integration: Veterans, HMIS, and CoC – *Constitution B*

**Afternoon Sessions One, 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

World's Fastest Housing Placement Process – *Wilson/Roosevelt*

Financing Supportive Housing: Using GPD and MilCon Funds in LIHTC Projects – *Constitution E*

Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Project – *Constitution D*

Separating the Warrior from the War and the Veteran From the Crime – *Constitution C*

Community Collaborations: CoC, Veteran Committees, and More – *Constitution B*

Veterans Community Action Teams: Model for Community Collaboration – *Burnham*

## **Afternoon Sessions Two, 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Supportive Housing: A Culture of Collaboration – *Wilson/Roosevelt*

Homeless Veterans from the African American Perspective – *Constitution E*

DOL Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program – *Constitution D*

Removing Legal Barriers: The Veteran Justice Initiative and Beyond – *Constitution C*

Arizona Action Plan: Localizing the Federal Plan – *Constitution B*

Veterans Community Action Teams: Model for Community Collaboration – *Burnham*

## **NCHV Annual Awards Banquet**

Awards Reception – *Cabin John/Arlington*, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

NCHV Annual Awards Banquet – *Constitution AB*, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Please join us Tuesday evening in recognizing this year's NCHV awardees. The NCHV Awards recognize and honor the work of individuals and organizations that are making an extraordinary impact in the fight to end veteran homelessness.

## **Wednesday, June 8**

### **Morning Sessions One, 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

How to Set Up a Collaborative Model With Your GPD Liaison – *Constitution C*

OIF/OEF: Innovations in Employment for a New Generation – *Constitution D*

VA HMIS Initiative: Data Integration – *Constitution E*

Rural Homelessness: The Homeless Prevention Services Program – *Conference Theater*

Veteran Legal Clinics – *Burnham*

### **Morning Sessions Two, 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

Veteran Justice Outreach Initiative – *Constitution C*

Longer-Term Outcomes: Tracking Vets Long After Employment – *Constitution D*

VA HMIS Initiative: Data Integration – *Constitution E*

Local Impact of the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans – *Conference Theater*

National Center on Family Homelessness and Homeless Female Veterans – *Burnham*

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



## Monday, June 6, 2011

### **New York City's Homeless Veterans: Ready, Willing & Able to Return Home**

Beginning with a discussion of reasons why veterans become homeless, and why they may or may not choose to seek assistance, this session will provide a data-driven overview of homeless veterans in New York City. The Doe Fund's Ready, Willing & Able program – a unique work-focused program – will be explained, including target populations, a program overview, and challenges faced in implementing the program.

*Elizabeth Hanson, The Doe Fund; Robert Hess, The Doe Fund*

### **Building Bridges Where They Sleep: Chronic Homelessness**

Access to service is difficult for the homeless in general, and the chronically homeless are challenged with a different set of barriers. Being chronically homeless is not considered survival: It's a way of life. How do you connect with one whose internal motivation has been switched off?

Putting the chronically homeless in housing programs can feel like taking them out of their "homes." This session will examine the barriers in serving chronically homeless veterans and discuss why continuity of care and forming relationships are a must when working with this population.

*Robin Murdock, Department of Veterans Affairs*

### **Engaging Philanthropy in Ending Veteran Homelessness**

A major emphasis of the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness is public-private partnerships. Philanthropy can and should play a central role in supporting nonprofits to accomplish this mission. This session will focus on how nonprofits can effectively engage foundation, corporate and individual funders, and will discuss the great potential that these partnerships present in ending veteran homelessness.

*Tori Lyon, The Jericho Project; Mary Taylor, The Jericho Project; Cindy Young, New Directions*

### **Collaboration: How to Get Started**

Collaboration occurs not only when you have a Memorandum of Understanding, but also when another agency's case manager helps your client with a job interview. This session will focus on street-level, real-world coordination. Focus topics will include: how to assess your needs, how to find partners to meet those needs, how to approach them, and how to make collaboration work at the right level. Learn to effectively collaborate with VA, HUD, DOL, CoCs, faith-based groups, shelters, funders, municipalities and more.

*John Briggs, Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries*

## Tuesday, June 7, 2011

### **Permanent Supportive and Shared Housing for Homeless Veterans**

U.S. VETS will present information about its 36-bed, 16-unit permanent supportive housing model that utilizes a cost-effective, clinically appropriate, shared housing strategy. The program provides scattered site apartments where veterans live in two- and three-bedroom apartments sharing common facilities. The session will include demographic/clinical data, financial data, program retention data, and program satisfaction data. Veterans currently in the program will provide experiential insights about the program (both positive and negative).

*Emily Button, U.S. VETS; Michael Ullman, U.S. VETS; Darryl Vincent, U.S. VETS*

### **Accessing VA Regional Office Resources for Homeless Veterans**

Learn from a VA Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinator how to access mainstream resources within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Emphasis will be placed on the various VA benefits programs available for veterans. This session will provide insight into the role of Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinators and the VA Regional Office in the Five-Year Plan. Claims procedure and processing, eligibility criteria for various VA programs, and where to obtain proper information to complete claims will be discussed.

*Regina Alexander, Department of Veterans Affairs*

## **Introduction to the Burton Blatt Institute (HVRP)**

This session will provide service providers, specifically HVRP grantees and their partners, with the opportunity to learn more about the technical assistance activities of the Burton Blatt Institute. The Burton Blatt Institute is funded by the DOL-Veterans' Employment Training Service to provide Technical Assistance to HVRP grantees.

*Stephan Haimowitz, Burton Blatt Institute; John Rio, Advocates for Human Potential; Gary Shaheen, Burton Blatt Institute*

## **ABA: Strategic Partnerships that End Homelessness Among Veterans**

Collaboration is a critical element of the battle to tackle the debilitating legal issues often faced by homeless veterans. The American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness and Poverty will lead this session, focusing on the collaboration between service providers, lawyers and the criminal justice system; medical-legal partnerships; and child support initiatives. This is the first session in the legal track.

*Paul Freese, Public Counsel; Ken Goldsmith, American Bar Association*

## **VHA Efforts to End Homelessness Among Veterans**

This session will provide an overview of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)'s national plans and efforts to end homelessness among veterans. Included in the presentation will be a review of VHA national homeless veteran programs and services, a review of the key components of VHA's homeless veteran transformation efforts, and a discussion of "The Way Ahead" for VHA.

*Lisa Pape, Department of Veterans Affairs; Terry Washam, Department of Veterans Affairs*

## **Therapeutic Community: Safety and Security Needs in Transitional Housing**

The establishment of an effective therapeutic community is vital to the success of veterans living in transitional living programs. Many of the basic principles of therapeutic community come into question when a crisis or event occurs that heightens the awareness of safety and security.

By employing strategies that engage the community as a whole, the therapeutic community can be strengthened while safety and security concerns are effectively addressed. This session will cover establishing a therapeutic community, immediate responses to crises, and maintaining the therapeutic community post-crisis.

*Ricky Ferguson, Volunteers of America; Michael Salois, Volunteers of America*

## **Bridging the Benefits Gap: Social Security Disability for Veterans**

Learn how to fill the income gap for disabled veterans during the lengthy wait for their benefits to be approved with expedited Social

Security disability benefits (SSD). This proven model reflects dramatic improvements in the amount of time it takes to access SSD while applying for veterans benefits.

With a goal of making sure that disabled veterans receive income as quickly as possible, this session will dispel the commonly held belief that obtaining SSD takes years and that SSD are not available to veterans.

*Mellani Calvin, Disability Benefits Training & Consulting; Walt Davis, Klamath & Lake Community Action Services; Ray Switzer, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs*

## **ABA: How to Secure Discharge Upgrades and Benefits**

Panelists will discuss the stages of a claim for disability compensation benefits, the standard of proof, and what to do if a claim is denied. Lawyers will share tips on what to look for when reviewing claims and gathering evidence, as well as why claims are denied and strategies to appeal. Finally, panelists will address discharge upgrades as well as PTSD and other mental health claims. This is the second session in the legal track.

*Carrie Weletz, Bergmann & Moore; Jeffery Yungman, Crisis Ministries Homeless Justice Project*

## **Data Integration: Veterans, HMIS, and CoC**

2011 marks the first year that HUD and VA mandated the recording of homeless veteran data in the HMIS for all organizations in local Continuums of Care. This will provide more accurate counts of homeless veterans throughout the country and will ensure accurate veteran representation in homeless assistance programs. This session will show service providers how to become involved in this process.

*Cynthia High, Department of Housing and Urban Development; John Kuhn, Department of Veterans Affairs*

## **World's Fastest Housing Placement Process**

In this session, representatives from Common Ground's 100,000 Homes Campaign will share quality improvement techniques that you can use to fulfill your housing placement goals. Participants will learn how to identify unnecessary steps and create a simpler, more efficient housing placement process for veterans.

Experts in quality improvement will lead the session, using a case study from a VASH team that has made significant improvements in housing placement.

*Brad Bridwell, Arizona Department of Veterans Services; Linda Kaufman, Common Ground*

## **Financing Supportive Housing: Using GPD and MilCon Funds in LIHTC Projects**

Building supportive housing for homeless veterans is expensive, and developers need to leverage as many public resources as possible. Regulatory changes now make it possible to combine low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC) with VA programs like Grant and

Per Diem and MilCon funds – but there are technical issues that need to be anticipated. This session will present examples of successful projects in Washington, Illinois and New York that navigated these regulatory challenges.

*Deb Burkart, National Equity Fund; Tom Hameline, HELP USA; Mitch Milner, Veterans Housing Consultant; Mark Thometz, Seattle Housing Consultant*

### **Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Project**

The Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Project is a coordinated effort between HUD, VA and DOL to explore ways for the federal government to offer early intervention homelessness prevention, primarily to veterans returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Representatives from each of the participating agencies will discuss the progress to date and strategies for applying the lessons learned from the demonstration project to other geographic regions.

*Ken Fenner, Department of Labor; Cynthia High, Department of Housing and Urban Development*

### **Separating the Warrior from the War and the Veteran from the Crime**

Increasingly, veterans find themselves involved in the criminal justice system facing allegations for crimes that stem from behaviors related to their service to our country. This panel will present viable alternatives to the traditional court response of convictions and incarceration through discussion of Veterans Treatment Courts, Homeless Courts, and Legal Services at Stand Down, as well as tips on how to work with the Veterans Justice Outreach liaison in your community.

*Steve Binder, San Diego Office of the Primary Public Defender; Paul Freese, Public Counsel; Jude Litzenberger, San Diego Superior Court*

### **Community Collaborations: CoC, Veteran Committees, and More**

This session will focus on the development of community collaborations involving the Continuum of Care, Ten-Year Plan process, and community partners including Veteran Service Officers and advocates in the creation of a local Veteran Committee to address veteran homelessness. VA and community representatives from Connecticut will discuss the success of a strategic plan, “Housing for Heroes,” and the resources it was instrumental in obtaining, including two Grant and Per Diem grants, HUD-VASH vouchers, local Section 8 vouchers and more.

*John Sullivan, Department of Veterans Affairs*

### **Supportive Housing: A Culture of Collaboration**

This session will show how Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans has successfully implemented both transitional and permanent supportive housing projects for homeless veterans by working with the community and local partners. Specific examples will be pro-

vided, as well as an overview of the major phases of a development with emphasis on the partnerships utilized in each phase.

*Steve Saari, Northern Communities Land Trust; Kathy Vitalis, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans*

### **Homeless Veterans from the African American Perspective**

Little of the national public policy debate has focused on the historic overrepresentation of African Americans among the homeless veteran population. With no current meaningful explanation of this trend, this session will seek to better understand the reasons behind this situation.

Topics of discussion will include studies that have linked black military enlistments with the quest for jobs, training, education and economic advantage.

*Ron Armstead, CBC Veterans Braintrust; Robert Cocroft, Center for Veterans Issues; Ralph Cooper, Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse; Wendy McClinton, Black Veterans for Social Justice; Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Congressional Black Caucus; M. Williams Sermon, Homeless Research Institute*

### **DOL Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program**

The HVRP session will consist of an overview of the current HVRP-funded programs: the general HVRP, Homeless Females Veterans and Veterans with Families Program (HFVWF), and the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IVTP).

*Ken Fenner, Department of Labor*

### **Removing Legal Barriers: The Veteran Justice Outreach Initiative and Beyond**

The goal of this session is to provide practical information, guidance and support for those willing to replicate or initiate best practices to serve our veterans.

The session will begin with a discussion of the Veteran Justice Outreach Initiative followed by a quick overview of the legal issues and model initiatives presented during sessions held earlier in the day.

The panelists will facilitate an interactive dialogue and brainstorming session aimed at promoting innovative approaches and pro bono opportunities to assist veterans – especially those who are returning home with the profoundly destabilizing, invisible wounds of PTSD.

It will also help anyone interested in initiating a Veterans Treatment Court in his or her jurisdiction – a model that is proving invaluable to help prevent the criminalization of veterans who are afflicted with PTSD. The audience will be encouraged to ask questions, identify the barriers faced by their clients, and discuss specific challenges and issues in their communities.

### **Arizona Action Plan: Localizing the Federal Plan**

The Arizona Action Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans will be discussed, including the history of its development as well as

**Wednesday, June 7, 2011**

the process used to synchronize the plan with local hospitals and federal plans, e.g. "Opening Doors" and the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness.

The main focus will be on how Arizona has built and is building the critical state/local government, mainstream and community-based resources to leverage and maximize VA's impact on ending homelessness among veterans.

*Brad Bridwell, Arizona Department of Veterans Services; Michael Leon, PVAHCS HCHV Coordinator*

### **Veterans Community Action Teams: Model for Community Collaboration**

Altarum Institute's Veterans Community Action Teams (VCAT) Mission Project has been working to develop a veterans services system of care, characterized by a comprehensive network of service providers, empowered with knowledge, information, and tools and effectively ensuring that all veterans and family members who these providers encounter are connected to the appropriate service providers and fully served in a timely manner. This collaborative community model – VCAT Model – is being tested, through implementation, in two communities that have large veteran populations: San Diego and San Antonio.

*Max Burke, Altarum Institute; John King, King Associates*

### **How to Set Up a Collaborative Model with Your GPD Liaison**

A GPD Liaison and a service provider will present their collaborative model for Grant and Per Diem programs and VA Liaisons. Specific steps will be provided to improve cooperation in order to better serve the veterans. By providing better understanding of each entity's roles and responsibilities, the session will help foster a positive environment for the VA and community-based organizations to work together.

*Sean Benedict, Vietnam Veterans of California; Reed Walker, Department of Veterans Affairs*

### **OIF/OEF: Innovations in Employment for a New Generation**

This session will discuss innovative models in employment and training tailored for new veterans. Growth industries will be one focus area – what they are, how you identify them, and getting veterans trained and employed into these industries. Another focus will be green jobs – specifically, a community college model of an 8-12 week green job training program.

*Kenneth Crawford, Swords to Plowshares; Dave Lopez, Swords to Plowshares*

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## **VA HMIS Initiative: Data Integration**

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced plans for participation in Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) to understand the patterns of veteran homelessness and measure progress in VA's Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness.

This session will assist VA staff and service providers to learn more about HMIS and how to enter data into HMIS. The session will also discuss how HMIS fits into the VA plan.

*Stephani Nagy, Abt Associates; Matt White, Abt Associates*

## **Rural Homelessness: The Homeless Prevention Services Program**

This session will provide an overview of, and lessons learned from, a VA Capitol Health Care Network contract to provide homeless and prevention services in the communities surrounding four rural Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). The Rural Homeless and Homeless Prevention Services Project identifies homeless or at-risk veterans, helps determine service needs, enhances veteran enrollment, and facilitates clinical assessment and consultation. Case managers work within the VA's Health Care for Homeless Veterans team to foster partnerships among homeless programs, mental health services, CBOCs and community stakeholders with the goals of determining ongoing service needs and supplementing rather than duplicating existing efforts.

*Hilda Heady, Atlas Research; Veronica Jackson, Atlas Research; Jesse Vazzano, Department of Veterans Affairs*

## **Veteran Legal Clinics**

This presentation will show how Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, in partnership with the Minnesota Justice Foundation, has successfully addressed veterans' legal issues with specialized clinics held throughout the year. Citing the need to provide legal services to low-income men and women who served our country honorably, the clinics were developed as a pilot project that has been continued in both the Twin Cities and statewide. Attendees will be able to set realistic project goals and identify partners in their communities to start clinics.

*Nathaniel Saltz, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans; Kathy Vitalis, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans*

## **Veteran Justice Outreach Initiative**

The purpose of the Veteran Justice Outreach Initiative is to avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among veterans by ensuring that eligible justice-involved veterans have timely access to VHA mental health and substance abuse services when clinically indicated, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate. This session will include discussion by Veteran Justice Outreach Specialists who have been at the forefront of this effort to tackle some of the largest legal issues facing homeless and at-risk veterans.

*George Basher, Department of Veterans Affairs; Jim McGuire, Department of Veterans Affairs*

## **Longer-Term Outcomes: Tracking Vets Long After Employment**

In mid-2009, an HVRP provider in Philadelphia found and teamed up with a British foundation to conduct a pilot program to track a group of homeless veterans for up to two years. The objectives of the pilot are to achieve high levels of sustained retention, and to evaluate the causes and factors that lead to positive and negative employment outcomes for vets.

This session will share the lessons learned that can be utilized by any veteran employment program to improve training and case management procedures. The pilot has run through one of the toughest job markets in several decades, helping to find truly effective techniques including new approaches to achieve long-term retention.

*Mike Graber, Impact Services Corporation; Rhakeem Favors, Impact Services Corporation*

## **Local Impact of the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans**

Since the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans was initiated in April 2010, both obtaining and developing homeless prevention resources has been critical. Without linkages directly to HPRP funds, VA has found that it could not prevent many who were within weeks of eviction from becoming homeless.

Strategic planning and developing a network among veteran service organizations, homeless alliance groups, and community service providers has proven to be crucial. The impact that communities can make through shared responsibility and networking groups will prove to make a difference in both preventing and ending homelessness.

Learn how you can participate in networks in your community to make the National Call Center as effective as possible.

*Tammy Wood, Department of Veterans Affairs*

## **National Center on Family Homelessness and Homeless Female Veterans**

The National Center on Family Homelessness and service providers targeting their efforts toward homeless female veterans and veterans with families will speak about the unique approaches and program strategies to foster better outreach, engagement, and employment placement and retention with this target population.

*Kathleen Guarino, National Center on Family Homelessness*

# SESSION FACULTY BIOS

Session faculty are listed alphabetically.

## **Regina Alexander, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Alexander holds a Bachelor of Social Work, Associate in Science, and has served more than 31 years with Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration and the U.S. Armed Forces. Her previous titles include Veterans Benefits Counselor, Veterans Claims Examiner and Homeless Veterans Outreach Coordinator (HVOC) in St. Louis, MO, and St. Petersburg, FL. Alexander developed the St. Petersburg VA Regional Office (RO) Homeless Policy and Procedures and the RO's Homeless Program. She is a 2008 recipient of the VA Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans.

## **Ron Armstead, Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust**

Armstead is the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust (CBCVB) and a past consultant for late former Secretary Jesse Brown's VA Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. He has served as Executive Director of the CBCVB since its inception in 1988, first under Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), and currently under Reps. Corrine Brown (D-FL) and Sanford Bishop, Jr. (D-GA). Under his leadership the Veterans Braintrust has expanded from its small core group to become one of the premiere forums for policy debate between veterans of African descent and government representatives.

## **Sean M. Benedict, Psy.D., Vietnam Veterans of California**

Dr. Benedict is the Clinical Director for Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc (VVC), which runs a variety of programs across Northern California, serving approximately 3,000 veterans every year. He has been with for VVC for eight years and worked in the mental health field since 1989. Dr. Benedict is responsible for program design and the delivery of rehabilitative services in six VVC housing programs, including the Behavioral Health Treatment Centers in Sacramento and Eureka.

## **Steve Binder, San Diego Office of the Primary Public Defender**

Binder is a deputy public defender with the San Diego Office of the Primary Public Defender, where he has practiced since 1989. Binder represented clients in the mental health and welfare fraud specialty units. He founded the Homeless Court Program (HCP) in 1989 and the Veterans Treatment Review Calendar (VTRC) in 2011. He authored a grant request for Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance funding for the HCP. Binder has received many awards for his work. In November 2009, he received the VA Secretary's Award for Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans. NCHV presented him with the Unsung Hero Award in 2000.

## **Brad Bridwell, Arizona Department of Veterans Services**

Bridwell has over 13 years of experience working with homeless individuals. He has dedicated the past nine years to helping homeless veterans reintegrate into their communities. Bridwell is currently the Homeless Veterans Services Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Veterans Services and is responsible for coalescing stakeholders to create, implement and evaluate the state's effort to end homelessness among veterans. In his previous position as AZ Director for U.S.



Veterans Initiative, Bridwell helped establish more than 200 beds between Phoenix and Prescott. His employment reintegration programs established in Phoenix have led to "Best Practice" recognition by NCHV and DOL.

## **John Briggs, Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries**

Briggs, a Vietnam veteran, graduated from University of Wisconsin with a Master's Degree in Administration, and a Master's Degree in English. He has been the Director of Admission at two colleges. Briggs began the HVRP program At Ohio Valley Goodwill in Cincinnati in 1993. He also started HUD-funded programs for veterans. Briggs is currently the community liaison tasked with getting agencies to work together.

## **Deborah Burkart, National Equity Fund**

Burkart is the National Vice President, Supportive Housing & Assisted Living for the National Equity Fund (NEF), the largest nonprofit syndicator of low income housing tax credits. Burkart has served as Vice President since 1996. She graduated from Duke University and received master's degrees in business administration and city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since 1992, Burkart has underwritten supportive housing and, starting in 1998, assisted living investments for NEF's funds. Burkart has assisted in the acquisition and/or underwriting of over \$800 million in tax credit equity for special needs projects during her 19-year tenure at NEF. She is a nationally recognized expert on affordable seniors housing and supportive housing financing and policy. In 2008, she became an NCHV Board member.

## **Max Burke, Altarum Institute**

Burke is Program Analysis and Evaluation Deputy Practice Area Leader for the Altarum Institute. He has more than 30 years of experience in military health care management and consulting and served as Co-Director of the Veterans Community Action Teams (VCAT Project). Burke has been a project manager and senior health policy analyst with Altarum Institute for more than 14 years. He is also a veteran with more than 25 years of military service in the Air Force.

## **Emily Button, U.S. VETS**

Button is the Program Director for U.S. VETS' 40-bed Permanent Supportive Housing program in the D.C. area. She has worked with

U.S. VETS since 2006 and previously served as director for its successful AmeriCorps program.

**Mellani Calvin, Disability Benefits Training & Consulting**

Calvin's early career was in administration of Workers' Compensation Vocational Rehabilitation programs. She has assisted people through the SSI/SSDI application process for more than 10 years, starting out as a Social Security disability paralegal. She began working at Central City Concern in November 2004 as a benefits specialist and moved on to manage their highly successful Benefits and Entitlements Specialists Team. As of April 2010, Calvin established two new disability-related companies: Disability Benefits Training & Consulting, LLC and A.S.S.I.S.T. Assertive SSI Service Team. As a contracted consultant to the state of Oregon and other agencies throughout the Pacific Northwest, Calvin has established similar programs for the disabled homeless in many cities.

**Robert A. Cocroft, Brigadier General (Ret.),**

**Center for Veterans Issues**

BG Cocroft is currently the President and CEO of the Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd. (CVI), a nonprofit providing advocacy, services and housing to low-income, homeless, minority and women veterans and their families. CVI is the largest private provider of transitional housing and permanent supportive housing earmarked for veterans in the state of Wisconsin. BG Cocroft also serves as the National Commander of the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc. NAB-VETS is certified by VA to provide claims representation and has chapters in more than 70 locations.

**Ralph Cooper, Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse**

Cooper is currently the President of Brewcoop Business Enterprises, LLC (BBE). BBE is a service-connected disabled veteran-owned small business in Houston. BBE is CCR-registered and verified Vet Biz Company, which provides technical, management, housing, mediation and counseling consultant services. Cooper is the Community and Residential Veteran Services Coordinator for Cloudbreak Houston, providing housing and management services to Midtown Terrace, a 286-unit housing development for veterans, including homeless veterans. Cooper is the past executive director of Veteran Benefits Clearinghouse in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

**Kenneth Crawford, Swords to Plowshares**

Crawford is the Program Manager for Swords to Plowshares' Employment and Training programs in both the East Bay and San Francisco offices. He served six years in the U.S. Navy as a Seabee and was honorably discharged in April 1993. After the military, however, Crawford succumbed to substance abuse; eventually he became homeless and lived on the streets for two years. He sought help at New Directions in West Los Angeles through the VA. Crawford entered and completed their program and was hired to work with other veterans. In 2006 Crawford returned to the Bay Area and began his career at Swords.

**Walt Davis, Klamath & Lake Community Action Services**

Davis is a Federal Benefits Specialist with Klamath & Lake Community Action Services (KLCAS) in Klamath Falls, OR, where he assists severely disabled homeless and low-income individuals with their Social Security disability applications. Davis is the first benefits



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CONTACT: Debbie Burkart | VP/Special Needs Housing | 213-240-3133 | [debbieb@nefinc.org](mailto:debbieb@nefinc.org)



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specialist hired by KLCAS and was instrumental in developing the Benefits Specialist Program in his county. In the first six months of the program's existence, he received over 50 referrals and helped to bring over \$200,000 into the community through a combination of back awards and projected monthly payments through 2011. He was also instrumental in developing the county's only Organizational Representative Payee Program, which will benefit severely disabled individuals who cannot manage their Social Security or VA disability benefits.

**Rhakeem Favors, Impact Services Corporation**

Favors has served as the Senior Manager of the Veterans Employment Unit of the Veterans Department since 2007. In prior years, Favors functioned as a case manager, instructor and outreach specialist in this unit, giving him considerable hands-on experience with the full scope of services delivered to both homeless veterans who reside in Impact's several transitional housing programs as well as veterans in the community who face barriers to employment.

**Ken Fenner, Department of Labor**

Fenner has 15 years of professional experience in state and federal government working for the state of Maryland and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Fenner served as Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and a Unit Manager when working for the MD Division of Rehabilitation Services, serving the universal population of disabled persons seeking reintegration into the labor force. At the D.C. VA Medical Center, Fenner served as a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, placing severe and chronically mentally ill veterans, while working for the Compensated Work Therapy Unit. He has also served as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and Employment Coordinator for VBA's VR&E program. Currently, Fenner manages the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and the Veterans Workforce Investment Program for the DOL Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). He is a former Marine Corps Aviation Ordnanceman who served during the first Persian Gulf War.

**Ricky Ferguson, Volunteers of America**

Ferguson has been with VOA since 2005 and is currently the Program Director for the Veterans Resource Center. He is a U.S. Army veteran. Ferguson first became involved with VOA as a homeless veteran living and receiving services at the Veterans Resource Center in 2002. He began his career with VOA as a peer educator prior to

transitioning to case management and ultimately the program director position, which he assumed in April 2010.

**Paul Freese, Public Counsel**

Freese is the Director of Litigation & Advocacy for Public Counsel, the public interest law office of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations and the largest provider of pro bono legal services in the United States. Freese is the Special Advisor to the ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty's Homeless Veterans Justice Initiative. He has been a member of the California State Bar since 1988. From 1988 to 1994, he worked as a litigation associate with the law firm of Perkins Coie. He joined Public Counsel in March 1994 and acted as Directing Attorney of the Homelessness Prevention Law Project for more than six years before being promoted in January 2001 to his current position, in which he supervises more than 20 attorneys and their staff. He volunteered for three years of service with the U.S. Army and received an Honorable Discharge in 1976.

**Michael Graber, Impact Services Corporation**

Graber, a U.S. Navy and Army veteran, is the Program Director for the Veterans Department of Impact Services Corporation in Philadelphia. He joined the organization in 1993, establishing Impact's first veterans' program and leading the development of every Impact veterans program to this day.

**Stephan Haimowitz, Burton Blatt Institute**

Working for 30 years at the intersections of disability policy, service delivery and the legal system, Haimowitz has served in such roles as hospital administrator, class action litigator, research ethics consultant, state agency counsel, educator and program evaluator. His current efforts include improving services and employment opportunities for homeless veterans, ending the misuse of restraint on people with mental illness, and assisting collaborations between behavioral health and criminal justice agencies.



**Thomas Hameline, HELP USA**

Hameline, Senior Vice President of Program Development, oversees program development and design for HELP USA, a nonprofit organization based in New York City. He has developed new permanent supportive housing facilities, transitional housing sites, homeless prevention programs, vocational training programs, and a fair housing center for the agency.

**Elizabeth M. Hanson, The Doe Fund**

Hanson joined The Doe Fund in 2006 and is currently the Associate Director of the largest Ready, Willing & Able facility, which specializes in criminal justice and veteran populations. Her previous roles at the Fund during the last five years include Compliance Administrator, Director of Social Services and Director of Programs & Quality Assurance. Prior to joining The Doe Fund, she spent five years on the staff of the NYC Department of Homeless Services, initially as a legal intern, next as an Agency Attorney in the Legal Affairs Division/ Employee Discipline Unit, and ultimately as the Director of Client Responsibility in the Adult Services Division

**Hilda R. Heady, Atlas Research**

Heady is a widely respected expert and advocate for rural health and the health of veterans in rural America, leading rural health research and policy efforts for Atlas Research as Chair of the Rural Health Research and Policy Group. She also holds adjunct professor appointments with Georgetown University and West Virginia University. Heady has spent 38 years working in the field of rural health, healthcare workforce development and community-based health professions training, rural hospital administration, and women's health



**Robert Hess, The Doe Fund**

Hess joined The Doe Fund in 2010 and plays an integral role in developing new business and work opportunities, overseeing supportive housing programs and assisting in national scaling of Ready, Willing & Able. Hess most recently served as Commissioner of Homeless Services in New York City. Under his leadership, the number of people living on the streets in the city declined by 49% and more than 100,000 people moved from shelters to permanent housing in a span of four years. Prior to that, Hess supervised adult services for the city of Philadelphia. During this tenure, he developed the mayor's 10-year plan to end homelessness, reduced the number of individuals living on the streets by more than 60%, and created the first Housing First programs for chronically homeless individuals.

**Cynthia High, Department of Housing and Urban Development**

High currently serves as the Acting Director for the Supportive Housing Program Division in HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS), with special attention to homeless veteran funding, legislation and initiatives. The SNAPS Office administers HUD's Homeless Assistance Programs and special initiatives targeted to homeless persons. The Office develops policy and guidance to assist communities to coordinate a comprehensive approach to homeless programs. Ms. High has more than 20 years experience assisting active duty, retired military members, and other veterans and their families dealing with issues of homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse, health and mental health, as well as military sexual trauma, deployment and childcare.

**Veronica Jackson, Atlas Research**

Jackson is a Project Manager specializing in health care policy for

Atlas Research. She has 10 years combined experience in government, management, and health policy research. Prior to joining Atlas Research, Jackson worked for two years as an Associate at the Mizeur Group, a government affairs consulting firm.

**Linda Kaufman, Common Ground**

Kaufman is the Eastern U.S. Field Organizer for Common Ground's 100,000 Homes Campaign. In this role she is responsible for inviting communities and states to join the campaign, and working with them to determine which homeless individuals in the community are vulnerable and to assist in developing resources. She has worked in

homeless services in Washington, D.C., since the mid-1980s, most recently as Chief Operating Officer of Pathways to Housing DC.

**John Kuhn, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Kuhn is the VA's National Director of Homeless Evaluation and the VA's Acting Director for Supported Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). In this role he has worked with federal partners to develop

processes that will help identify the needs of homeless Veterans and the effectiveness of services designed to assist them. As the VA's Acting Director for Supported Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Kuhn has coordinated the development and launch of the VA's new prevention and rapid re-housing initiative. For the past several years he has also co-authored the VA's CHALLENGE Report, a community assessment on the needs of homeless Veterans. Prior to joining the VA's National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans, he directed homeless programs in New Jersey developing innovative housing, treatment and employment programs. Kuhn was acknowledged by the former Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, who had the U.S. flag flown over the Capitol in his honor.

**Michael A. Leon, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Leon is currently the Health Care for Homeless/Compensated Work Therapy Coordinator for the Phoenix VA Health Care System, where he has worked for the past 13 years. His career in mental health was shaped through the Regional Behavioral Health Authority of Arizona, working 10 years case managing serious mentally ill adults and serious emotionally disabled children. As a Coordinator for the Southwest Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center for three years, he provided acute psychiatric stabilization for those in danger of harming themselves or others. Currently he oversees and facilitates three homeless programs, including: Homeless Outreach, Grant and Per Diem and contract VA homeless programs, and HUD-VASH and Compensated Work Treatment. His programs assess the third-highest number of homeless veterans in the country.

**Jude Litzenberger, San Diego Superior Court**

Litzenberger is the Coordinator for the Veterans Treatment Review Calendar in San Diego Superior Court. She has been instrumental in

recruiting and training the collaborative team that supports the Veterans Treatment Court in San Diego County. As co-chair of the Returning Veterans Legal Task Force, she has worked for three years on community education and development to bring all key players to the table in designing a VTC that incorporates lessons learned in other VTC ventures, maximizes the intricacies of California law, and is built on ensuring safe communities and getting timely and appropriate treatment for her fellow veterans.

#### **Dave Lopez, Swords to Plowshares**

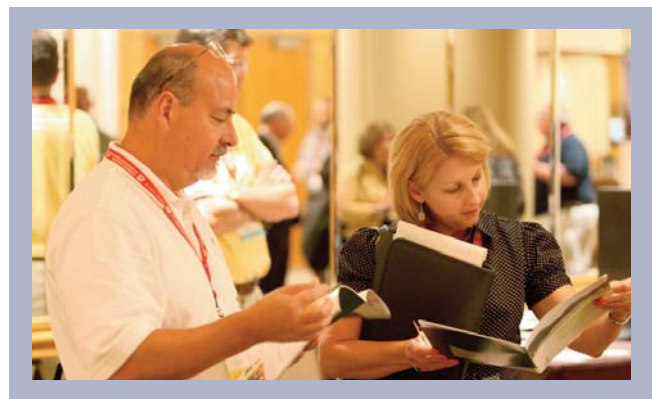
Lopez is the Director of Supportive Services for Swords to Plowshares and oversees the Employment & Training Services Unit, and Health and Social Services. He is responsible for ensuring that the comprehensive services at Swords are integrated and meet the needs of veterans. Prior to this position, Lopez served as the Director of Employment and Training, overseeing both the San Francisco and East Bay offices. In that role he was responsible for securing employment, training and stable housing opportunities for the homeless veteran population of the San Francisco area in an effort to foster self-reliance and improve their quality of life.

#### **Tori Lyon, Jericho Project**

Lyon joined the Jericho Project in 1996 as the Director of Development. In 1999, she was promoted to Associate Executive Director and in 2005 became Executive Director. Lyon's experience includes over 17 years in the supportive housing industry with a focus on strategic planning, fund raising, housing development and program development. Prior to joining the Jericho Project, Lyon was the Grants Manager at Bailey House, a supportive housing program for people living with HIV/AIDS.

#### **Rep. Gwen Moore, United States Congress**

Rep. Moore (D-WI) is a member of the prestigious House Committee on Financial Services, which has jurisdiction over the banking, insurance and housing industries. Moore also sits on the House Budget Committee, which oversees the federal budget process, reviews all bills and resolutions on the budget, and monitors agencies and programs funded from the budget process. She is also a member of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. When it comes to our troops, Moore has been a strong advocate for boosting the efforts of the U.S. Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to ensure our nation's service members and veterans get the care they need to successfully address Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



#### **Robin Murdock, Department of Veterans Affairs**

In her current position, Murdock serves as a VA Supportive Housing (VASH) Case Manager. Murdock is senior Case Manager for the American Lake division. She has seen her program grow from 35 vouchers to 225 during a three-year period. This has afforded Murdock the opportunity to collaborate with several local housing authorities and the freedom to create new relationships with community organizations that support homeless veterans.

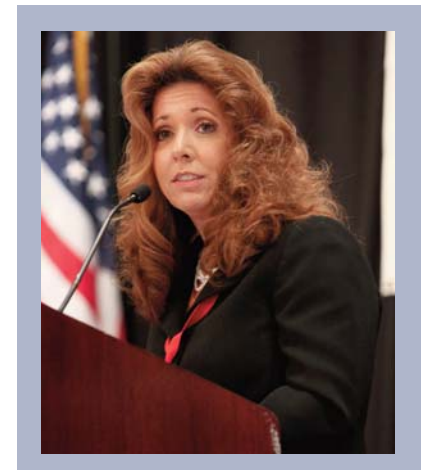
#### **Stephanie M. Nagy, Abt Associates**

Nagy joined Abt Associates in 2010, bringing more than 14 years of experience in homeless veterans and housing development issues. She has worked for U.S. Veterans Initiative, the largest nonprofit dedicated to homeless and at-risk veterans in the country. Through her work she has developed projects using the VA Grant and Per Diem (GPD), HUD-VASH and other federal programs. Currently, Nagy is assisting VA with its HMIS system development and providing training and technical assistance to communities on a number of veteran issues such as GPD and Supportive PH Development.

#### **Lisa Pape, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Pape is the National Director of the Mental Health Homeless and Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs Office. In this capacity, she is the Veterans Health Administration's lead executive for Homeless Veteran Programs and Services and the Under Secretary for Health's "point person" for ending homelessness among veterans. Pape's

20 years of field and VA Central Office experience in working with homeless veterans programs has prepared her for this assignment. Her dedication to veterans and families along with her passion for excellence provide a strong foundation for carrying out the Secretary's mission to end homelessness among veterans.



#### **John Rio, Advocates for Human Potential**

Based in Fairfax, Va., Rio is a Senior Program Associate at Advocates for Human Potential. He provides technical assistance and training on homelessness and employment services for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development to local organizations across the country. With more than 30 years of experience in recovery services, supportive housing, vocational rehabilitation and homeless assistance services, Rio's work has focused on developing materials and consulting to design and improve permanent supportive housing strategies that offer innovative programming and employment services.

#### **Steve Saari, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**

Saari, Lt. Col. (Retired) U.S. Air Force, is the Regional Manager for

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans Duluth Regional Office. Saari primarily works with veteran families with Disabilities in the Northeast Continuum of Care (NECoC), which encompasses Cook, Lake, Koochiching, Itasca, Carlton and Aitkin counties. Saari also does outreach work for veterans in the entire Duluth Regional Area.

**Michael Salois, Volunteers of America**

Salois, MEd, MA, has been with VOA of Greater Ohio since 2003 and is currently the Director of Programs and Services for the Cleveland and Mansfield markets. Prior to moving to this position in October 2008, he was the Program Director for Veterans Resource Center, which houses a 54-bed Grant and Per Diem program, DOL Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) and VA Special Needs Program serving chronically mentally ill homeless veterans. He is currently overseeing an employability training program for homeless veterans at Patriot Packaging and the opening of a 122-bed domiciliary in partnership with VA.

**Nathaniel Saltz, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**

Saltz has been serving homeless veterans as a Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) staff member since 2003. He has served as an HVRP Case Manager, Grant & Per Diem Program Coordinator, and Regional Manager. His duties within the organization have included operating and case managing veterans in a 13-bed GPD program, coordinating the annual Metro Stand Down event, and piloting a Family Law Clinic for Veterans partnership. Saltz has also been active with MACV in the community on behalf of veterans. He has served as a member of the Project Homeless Connect Steering Committees in Minneapolis and St Paul.

**Gary E. Shaheen, Burton Blatt Institute**

Shaheen is Senior Vice President at the Syracuse University Burton Blatt Institute. Shaheen is a recognized expert in the field of mental health rehabilitation, homelessness and social entrepreneurship. For more than 30 years, in both the public and private sectors and in the United States and internationally, he has been instrumental in shaping policy and programs at the state and federal levels that help



people with disabilities and/or disadvantages fully integrate into their communities. He is the principal author of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s guidebook for developing employment services for people who are homeless and has authored numerous articles on employment and entrepreneurship for people with disabilities, including veterans.

**John Sullivan, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Sullivan is the HUD-VASH Program Coordinator for VA Connecticut Healthcare Systems. As a senior member of the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program, Sullivan has provided a full spectrum of supports to homeless veterans. His perspective has been shaped by roles including Outreach and Engagement, Critical Time Intervention (CTI), CHALENG Pont of Contact, Permanent Housing Specialist and HUD-VASH Program Coordinator. The latter three positions have provided the opportunity to greatly expand VACT community partnerships and involvement in both local Continuum of Care and Ten Year Planning processes throughout Connecticut, all in collaboration with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

**Ray Switzer, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs**

Switzer is a Program Manager with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. He is the manager of "Building 9 For Veterans," a transitional program for homeless veterans in Port Orchard on the campus of The Washington State Veterans Home. Switzer has served on the Veterans Assistance Fund Board of Kitsap County and is active in several other community organizations as well as being active in a local church in Port Orchard Washington. Over the past 21 years Switzer has personally assisted over 1,800 homeless veterans in their quest to get off the streets.

**Mark E. Thometz, Seattle Housing Consultant**

Thometz was a developer for the VA Capital Grant Per Diem Compass Renton Veteran's Project located in Washington state, and was the lead developer on behalf of Compass Housing Alliance and Shelter Resources Inc. The project received groundbreaking financial structuring assistance through the efforts of National Equity Fund and attorneys Kantor Taylor LLC, which Thometz coordinated. He has over 23 years experience in multi-family and single-family housing development. Thometz was the Executive Director at a major affordable housing development company (DASH) for nearly 9 years. He has developed close to \$290 million of real estate, both multi-family rental and home ownership projects.

**Michael Ullman, U.S. VETS**

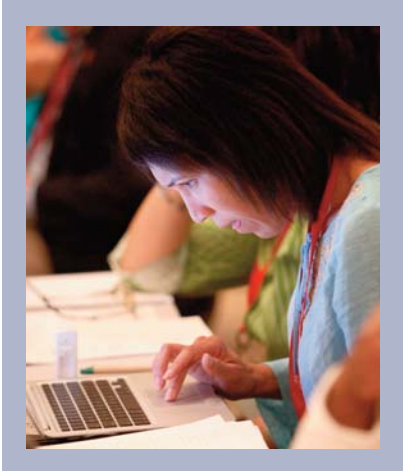
Ullman, Ph.D., is the U.S. VETS National Development and Program Evaluation Specialist. He has worked with U.S. VETS for the past seven years providing grant, evaluation, financial and strategic



expertise. Ullman has worked in the fields of homeless and disability services for the past 15 years. He is an experienced social science researcher who is published in peer-review journals in community health and disability policy.

**Jesse K. Vazzano, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Vazzano has 10 years of experience working in health care and homeless services and is currently the VISN 5 Network Homeless Coordinator. Prior to her current assignment, she had served as the Homeless Coordinator for the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, in Bedford, MA, and as the Homeless Coordinator/Grant and Per Diem Liaison at the White River Junction VA in Vermont.



**Darryl Vincent, U.S. VETS**

Vincent is the U.S. VETS Vice President of Programs and the Hawaii State Director. He has worked in the

field of substance abuse and veterans homeless services for more than 15 years. Vincent oversees the delivery of clinical programming at U.S. VETS' 10 residential sites, which serve over 2,000 veterans daily. He currently lives in Hawaii and will be moving to the D.C. area to lead the opening of U.S. VETS' new 145-bed Transition and Permanent Housing complex in the district.

**Kathleen Vitalis, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**

Vitalis currently holds the position of President/CEO for the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, where she has worked since April 2001. Her responsibilities include managing all day-to-day activities such as fiscal responsibilities and budgeting, coordinating all regional programs, analyzing needs of current programs and recommending enhancements, managing all grant activity, budgeting and reporting. She is also the key interface for private foundation giving/fundraising.

**Reed Walker, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Walker, a U.S. Navy veteran, is currently a VA Grant and Per Diem Liaison stationed in Sacramento. She works with Vietnam Veterans of California's three Per Diem Programs in Sacramento and manages the HCHV placements as well. In 2009 she received NCHV's VA Staff Award. She has worked with homeless veterans her entire social work career.

**Terry Washam, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Washam is a social worker by profession and began his career with VA in 1979 as a Vet Center Team Leader in Cleveland. He has held a variety of mental health administrative positions during his 30 years with VA, including Director, Cleveland Comprehensive Homeless Center. Currently he serves as the National VISN/VAMC Liaison,

Mental Health Homeless and Residential Rehab Treatment Programs, VA Central Office. In this capacity, he provides assistance to VISNs and VAMCs on the development and implementation of Five-Year Plans and transformation efforts in support of ending homelessness among veterans.

**Carrie Weletz, Bergmann & Moore, LLC**

Weletz grew up in Pittsburgh and is an attorney with Bergmann & Moore, LLC. She attended the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned a BA in Political Science. While in law school, she served as an attorney in the Civil Practice Clinic and also worked for the Innocence Project of the National Capital Area. Prior to joining Bergmann & Moore, LLC, in April 2007, Weletz worked as a litigator for a law firm in Pittsburgh where she also volunteered her time as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for several foster children in the family court system.

**Matt White, Abt Associates**

White is a national expert and policy advisor to HUD on HMIS development, implementation and management. Working in homelessness and the special needs housing field for nearly 15 years, White specializes in strategic planning and homeless systems policy development, research and evaluation, and HMIS for homeless system evaluation and client case management. For the past five years, White has led Abt's HMIS TA Initiative for HUD and is currently the Project Director for the VA HMIS Project.

**Tammy Wood, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Wood, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Supervisor with the VA North Texas Health Care System, is the Program Manager for the HCHV Outreach Program, Contract Residential Treatment, Peer Housing Location Assistance Groups, Call Center for Homeless Veterans Resources, CHALENG Coordinator, and VA Community Liaison.

**Cindy Young, New Directions**

In 2007 Young joined New Directions, where she has worked to focus public attention on the agency's mission through a new website, unified marketing materials, ramped-up press relations, special events and strengthened foundation relations. As a result, new foundations have joined to help specific veteran populations including women, veterans with severe co-occurring disorders, and veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Still others have funded specific projects, such as a theatre program and a new computer lab. Program support from four prominent Los Angeles area foundations has helped the agency weather the downturn in government grants.

**Jeffrey Yungman, Crisis Ministries Homeless Justice Project**

Yungman is the Legal Director of the Crisis Ministries Homeless Justice Project in Charleston, SC. He is also a member of the American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty. In 1980, after leaving the New Orleans Police Department, Yungman obtained a Masters in Social Work and a Masters in Public Health from Tulane University. After a variety of social work jobs, in 1999 he became Clinical Director of Crisis Ministries, the largest homeless shelter in South Carolina.

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