

“Not for themselves, but for their country”

Inscription at the base of the Private Soldier Monument, or “Old Simon” in the Arlington National Cemetery

This week we pause for a moment to recognize a special holiday, dedicated to the people who have served our country in the armed forces across the United States and around the world.

Historically, November 11th was originally recognized as Armistice Day, in honor of the end of the First World War, under a proclamation signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919, and the date’s meaning expanded to become Veterans Day in 1954 to recognize those who have served in all wars. There is a unique commitment to service derived from multiple sources, including, but not limited to family tradition, patriotism or to give thanks for the privilege of citizenship or permanent residence.

Within our CPCS family, we work with veterans, we represent veterans and we litigate against veterans. In 2009, the American flag was flown in honor of CPCS at the Court Room of the Hall of Justice at Joint Base near Balad, Iraq, and we keep that flag as an honored memento. In 2016, Angel Rodriguez, Supervising Investigator with PDD, served as a Sergeant with the National Guard in deployment to Afghanistan from 2012-2013, secured a Service Member Patriot – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award for CPCS to honor our support of his service. Angel’s service experience helps him work with a diverse range of people, and his sense of duty drives him in pursuit of the facts and witnesses supporting our client’s causes. Other colleagues have come to CPCS after their service, or have served while working for our agency. Some continue to serve, with distinction. The stories of sacrifice and contribution among those who have served know no bounds, whether based on race, national origin, indigenous status, sex, gender, LGBTQ status, religion and/or disability.

Among communities of color, countless individuals have served. In fact, a major underpinning to the civil rights movement was the fight by and on behalf of black veterans who were treated as second-class citizens in their own country. These veterans, who numbered more than a million during World War II, saw and experienced equal treatment in foreign lands, though that was mixed with the cruel treatment and discrimination from their white comrades-in-arms. Their struggles led to the creation of the G.I. Bill, and the knowledge of organization and tactics that were vital to the civil rights struggle. Prominent among the leaders who served were Medgar Evers, who became the NAACP’s first field secretary in Mississippi, Robert F. Williams, who stood armed against the Ku Klux Klan against desecration and attack, and Hosea Williams, who survived a Nazi bombing to become one of Dr. Martin Luther King’s most trusted lieutenants in the non-violent movement for equality.

What remains a struggle is the poor treatment, inadequate medical treatment and reality of having their service unfairly perceived or disregarded. For those who suffer this reality, too many have become our clients, and that should not be the result of the sacrifice and pain they have endured.

For all of the reasons for service, the history veterans have created and the sustaining impact they have had on our society, it is vitally important that we pause to recognize and pay due respect to those in our lives and beyond who have contributed through service in our armed forces and the reserve. So that I might be able to specifically recognize those who have served at CPCS, please consider sending me a note with your dates of service, branch and rank, so I can do a better job of honoring your contributions in the future. We have also added a couple of graphics below for additional data and further reading. Happy Veterans Day!

For additional reading and consideration

How Many Veterans Experience Homelessness?

On a single night in January 2020:

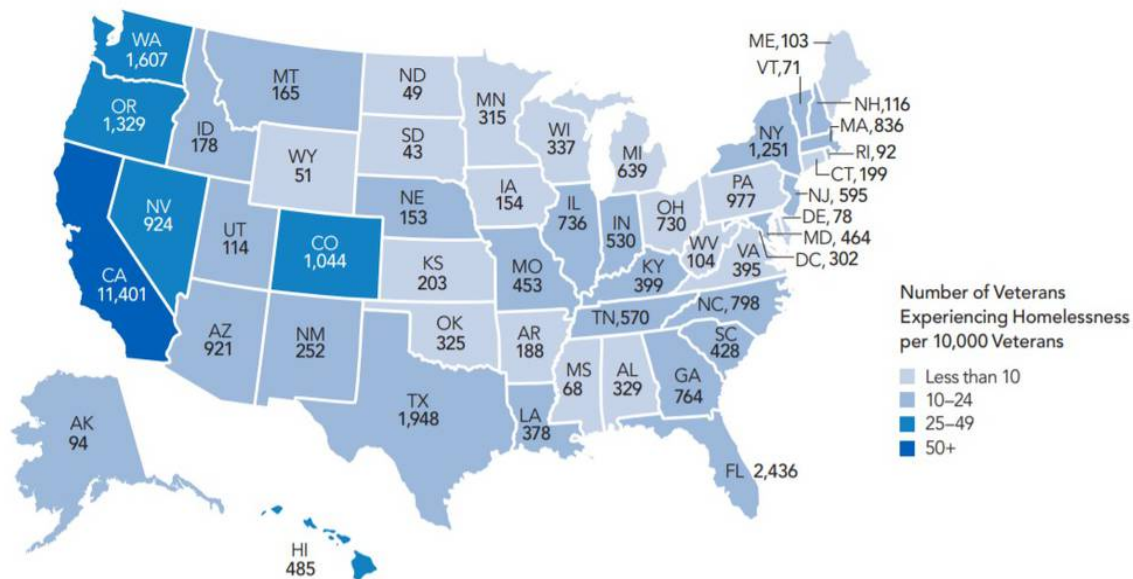
- 37,252 veterans were experiencing homelessness.
- 22,048 veterans were sheltered, while 15,204 veterans were unsheltered.
- Most homeless veterans were without children; only 2 percent were homeless as part of a family.
- 91.3 percent were men, while 8.4 percent (3,126 veterans) were women.

Why Do Veterans Experience Homelessness?

From, National Alliance to End Homelessness

<https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/who-experiences-homelessness/veterans/>

EXHIBIT 5.5: Estimates of Homeless Veterans
By State, 2020



From, The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>