

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release.

For more information, contact: **Kendra Lauruhn**, 308-633-2866 ext 106 or 877-218-2490 ext 106.

Are we as a community doing enough to help veterans transition to civilian life?

According to a poll conducted by The Washington Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation, 64% of those who served in combat feel disconnected from civilian life, 51% say the military is not doing enough to transition veterans to civilian life and 33% think about their service in war every day.

Approximately 7,000 veterans have served in the military and have returned home to rural Nebraska in the Panhandle. Can veterans thrive in a rural community? Absolutely! However we still have veterans that are struggling. Veterans are not only trained to follow directions but also are trained to be leaders. Military training gives veterans the skills they need to succeed.

“The transition from military service to civilian status is not just a change of scenery, it’s a change in nearly every aspect of life: careers, responsibilities, relationships, jobs, living conditions, communities, lifestyle, health care, mental health and sense of belonging and purpose,” said Kendra Lauruhn, VetSET Coordinator with Panhandle Public Health District. “I separated from the Air Force after nearly 13 years of service. The transition was home was not easy but I have a great support system here in Nebraska.”

“For veterans, being in the military is not like any other job. It’s not what you do, it’s who you are. Regardless of where or how you serve, you come home to your community different from when you left, with needs and experiences unique to you,” added Lauruhn.

What can you do to thank your community’s veterans? Take the time to learn about military culture and become better prepared to serve the veterans in your community. They put their life on the line for our freedom, let’s help them transition back into civilian status and thrive! Training, education, and communication can build communities ability to support veterans and their families. Ask yourself what you can do to give back and join us on March 17th, 2016 for the Panhandle Veteran Resource Network meeting at the Harms Center at 1pm.

The Panhandle of Nebraska has several veteran specific agencies such as VetSET Nebraska, WNCC Veterans Upward Bound, Department of Labor- Disabled Veterans Outreach Programs (DVOP), Veterans and Military Families Emergency Relief Organization, County Veteran Service Officers, veteran housing specialist, financial coach, equine therapy and VA clinics.

For additional information visit <http://www.pphd.org/VetSet.html> or call Kendra Lauruhn, VetSET Coordinator, at Panhandle Public Health District at 308-633-2866 ext 106 or toll free at 877-218-2490. Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.

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