

I BELIEVE

I believe, in the power of the Knights of Columbus.

Over the years, our government has created hundreds of thousands of military veterans, by sending our young men to fight in various wars. Many stock boys, gas station attendants, and grocery store baggers got trained as soldiers, saw combat, and returned home, broken.

World Wars I & II saw American men, mostly, go overseas to defeat our enemies. When they returned home, they were treated as the heroes they were. In the Vietnam War, thousands of our young men were drafted, trained, and sent overseas, to fight in an un-just war. People back home protested the war and burned draft cards. When these troops returned home, many suffered mentally & physically. Wars are hard on the soldiers. These men didn't return as heroes. But most of them never had to go back.

In the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, the fighting changed. IEDs and suicide bombers replaced tanks and heavy artillery. Snipers were everywhere. After using their training to kill enemy troops and watching many of your close buddies die next to them, our troops finally returned home. Before they got reacclimated into society though, many were redeployed again, and again. No one knew how this extended violence affected these troops. But the results show that many of them are in need of help:

- Many can't find work
- 700 American Vets commit suicide each month
- Thousands are physically disabled
- Thousands more have PTSD
- The Veterans Administration & Department of Defense can't give the Veterans the help they need
- Many Vets turn to crime. There are three states which have set up Veterans Only Prisons (Florida, Georgia, and Virginia. Many more are looking into this)
- Congress has been cutting the military budget, decreasing funding to the VA & DoD

Our Veterans deserve better. Our government is not the total answer. Someone else needs to help.

The Knights of Columbus has stepped up many times to help groups of Americans in need, from food kitchens, to those needing wheel chairs and help for Hurricane victims. Thousands of our Vets are suffering. The KofC is a tool waiting to be used.

It's time for the Knights of Columbus to use their great powers to help our Veterans. One way of doing this is to support the various State Veteran's Courts. (<http://www.17thvetmentorsredford.co/page6.html>)



These Courts address the special needs of veterans who commit a misdemeanor and need help re-assimilating into our society. **Rise Up Knights! We Must Take Action!**

Paul A. Daniel