Veterans hold a very special place in my heart. My father served the United States Air Force from 1989 till 1993, my grandfather also served in the United States Air Force from 1978-1996. Homelessness among veterans has become a huge issue in the United States. According to the 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, in 2018 alone there were 1,224 recorded homeless veterans and forty unsheltered veterans in New York state alone. The number of homeless veterans is alarming. In 2018 California recorded a staggering 10,834 homeless veterans. These veterans put their lives on the line to keep our country safe. The fact that any of our veterans are homeless is startling let alone thousands. One of the leading causes of the homelessness among veterans is mental illness, I am here to give my ideas on how to combat this devastating issue. Too many veterans the transition from their life in the military to everyday life can be a very grueling process. Many veterans who saw combat face mental illness, whether it's something as devastating as PTSD to something as common as anxiety, this can make transitioning into everyday life very difficult. I feel like many veterans need better access to a mental health expert. If these men and women had the opportunity to speak with a professional immediately after seeing combat the risk of PTSD may be reduced. Many of these brave men and women have a hard time processing their trauma if they were given the mental health support that they should have then the number of them who end up living on the streets may be decreased. The homelessness among veterans is unacceptable, I feel if more people were talking about it then maybe we will see some change. Preventing homelessness among veterans may be a huge task but something that everyone can do is bring awareness. Sites such as VA.gov do a wonderful job of bringing awareness to the conditions and issues facing many veterans. They also provide service and support to not only the veteran but their families as well. Many people
donate to organizations such as vvapickup.org you don't have to work for the government to help. As I previously mentioned my father was in the Air Force, he has raised me to respect veterans he would say if you see them struggling help. Those are the ideals that I was raised hearing. The fact that on a single night in January in 2018, 37,800 Veterans were homeless is extremely troubling. The number of homeless veterans has been on a steady decrease which great, we can't stop until that number is zero. I hope to see at least some change in the coming year because if we keep going the way things are then how can we expect people to continue to fight for us.