In the United States homelessness is an ongoing problem with thousands of people being without homes, jobs, and adequate health care. A percentage of those people are military veterans who fought for our country from World War II to Afghanistan. There are many ways to prevent veteran homelessness in the U.S. Some of these efforts are supporting local community programs, increasing awareness, and addressing and treating veterans' mental health issues. With the proper resources and attention, it is possible to prevent or reduce this problem.

One way to address and prevent veteran homelessness is supporting local community programs that raise money for homeless veterans. An example of a program is Wounded Warrior Project. This organization is a charity and veterans service organization that offers a variety of programs, services and events for wounded military veterans. With the support of donors, over one-hundred thousand men and women, wounded serving our country, are now served by WWP helping them achieve their highest goals.

Increasing awareness among veterans of many local, state, and federal programs, is another way to address and prevent veteran homelessness. For instance, every U.S Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center has a Homeless Veteran Program Coordinator. Another example, is the VA home loan program and the many home buying grants available to veterans for purchasing a home.

Many U.S veterans suffer from mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Depression. Addressing and treating these issues will also help efforts to prevent veteran homelessness. P.T.S.D is a disorder in which a person has difficulty recovering after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event. There are other mental illnesses that veterans can
experience such as depression, isolation anxiety, and addiction. Studies have shown that combat exposure combined with mental illness can result in abuse of drugs and alcohol. These addictions can get worse after the veterans return home. These disorders can prevent veterans from obtaining and keeping employment. Until they identify and seek professional treatment for these issues, it is difficult to focus on work, function in society, and manage work and life responsibilities.

While it is concerning that there are over forty thousand homeless veterans in the U.S, it is not hopeless. Raising money, increasing awareness, and mental health support, can help reduce and one day eliminate this problem.