"How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?"

Did you know that Salt Lake Tribune reported there are 239 homeless veterans in Utah? Being homeless after all the years of dedication to the nation must be vastly hard. My essay shares some ideas to help.

Using technology we can make a secure website where families, individuals or groups can adopt and meet a veteran. Provide time, resources, activities, provisions, etc. We can subscribe as sponsors for the period we can afford. Veterans can subscribe to the program in agencies, hospitals, shelters and designated areas that are accessible. Welcome centers for veterans will provide for meeting places with sponsors. Meeting the veteran in person gives a better understanding of their needs.

We all can help. Kids in school can write letters sharing what books they have read (for motivation). Letters always make us feel appreciated and not forgotten.

Write a pledge. A pledge to provide help (to compromise). Sponsoring can make a connection in our communities. Veterans problems should be seen as opportunities for new solutions. Give them little tokens to brighten their days in appreciation for their service. Provide them with books, cards, etc for entertainment. Keep their minds active and learning. If they are deaf or blind let’s expand our own knowledge and learn sign language and braille.

Let’s all stand up, speak up! Create awareness. Build and fix homes for them after all they served our nation. The point is to follow up. Do it daily, once a week, once a month not letting the effort disappear.

Utah’s population is 3.2 million vs. 239 homeless veterans. Let’s all help a homeless veteran today. If we do, there will be none tomorrow.