Hiring Our Heroes Serves Those Who Have Served

With Memorial Day weekend falling at the end of Mental Health Awareness month and during a global pandemic, the unique challenges and opportunities facing our nation's veterans are in clear view.

As we have for the past decade, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's <u>Hiring Our Heroes</u> is rising to the occasion to provide proactive solutions for veterans and military spouses during this time.

Under any circumstances, transitioning from military to civilian life is challenging. But as the pandemic continues, <u>unemployment rates</u> rise in all fifty states, and job markets become more competitive, this time is especially critical for military men and women. These unprecedented times present additional challenges to the often-turbulent adjustment from military to civilian employment.

Hiring our Heroes is pivoting to meet the needs of the nation's military men and women. On March 31, Hiring Our Heroes reinvented its world-class career curriculum and hiring event models into a virtual Career Community, bringing a series of free leadership coaching, civilian career preparation, industry knowledge, and wellbeing resources to transitioning military members, military spouses, and veterans around the world. We've welcomed more than 10,000 attendees to 85 sessions in the last eight weeks.

Hiring Our Heroes is also steadfastly committed to safeguarding veterans' mental health. At the start of the month, I joined our colleagues on The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) task force in a social media <u>video</u> campaign that's part of our <u>Wellbeing in the Workplace</u> coalition. Read more <u>here</u>.

Throughout this month, we've also focused our <u>#WellnessWednesday virtual curriculum</u> on mental and physical wellbeing. We'll wrap up Mental Health Awareness month with a series of educational tools and resources shared through our social media platforms (<u>@HiringOurHeroes</u>).

And don't miss a special <u>presentation</u> from Dr. Matthew Miller, Director of Suicide Prevention for the Veterans Affairs Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, on May 27.

Everything we do at Hiring Our Heroes is about serving those who have served and supporting military life in America. So, as we head into the Memorial Day weekend, we ask that you pause to remember the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving our nation, and honor their memory by connecting with military nonprofit organizations like ours.

-Eric Eversole, President, Hiring Our Heroes, Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce