

# ***Supporting our Vets and Gold Star Families during the COVID-19 Crisis on Armed Forces Day***

*By Bob Deitrick CEO and Steven Morgan, CFO  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

***The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armed Forces Day is Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. In 1961, John F. Kennedy declared Armed Forces Day a national holiday celebrated by exercises and parades that highlight and honor our military and veterans. As I said in an interview on WCMH recently, our military is the foundation of this great country. It is imperative we recognize those who go into positions of great peril for us and who have made exceptional sacrifices on our behalf. Our Veterans need to know that we hold them in exceptional esteem and that they are, indeed, a national treasure to all Americans.***

***After the Cuban Missile Crisis - John Kennedy made these comments before his death:***

***Our Servicemen and women serve throughout the world as guardians of peace - many of them away from their homes, friends and families. They are visible evidence of our determination to meet any threat to the peace with measured strength and high resolve. They are evidence of a harsh but inescapable truth—that the survival of freedom requires great cost and commitment, and great personal sacrifice. – President John F. Kennedy, 1963***

***Many vets today are struggling due to COVID-19 through isolation, unemployment, PTSD underemployment and homelessness. Most Americans do not realize the challenges many vets face:***

- 1. 18%+ of the adult homeless population are our veterans.***
- 2. 20 American veterans, due to isolation, PTSD and depression, commit suicide every single day. The Department of Veterans Affairs released data in 2019 showing that 60,000+ veterans died by suicide between 2008 and 2018, with little sign the crisis is abating.***
- 3. More than 100K veterans sought treatment last year in connection with sexual trauma during service.***
- 4. Just 4.6 percent of the 2 million eligible military voters cast a ballot in 2018 that counted. The circumstances of service make it difficult for vets to participate in the electoral process.***
- 5. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 300K+ service members had signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) last year. One-third of Vietnam vets are diagnosed with PTSD.***
- 6. About 4.6 million veterans had a service-related disability in 2019.***
- 7. The overall unemployment rate for veterans is likely to exceed 18% due to COVID-19. The total number of veterans unsuccessfully looking for work rose to 844,000 last year.***

**We at Polaris Financial Partners (PFP) have created a team to thank and recognize our vets and Gold Star Families who are struggling due to COVID-19 on this Armed Services Day. PFP will provide 700 Honey Baked® Ham Dinners to our vets and to Gold Star Moms in Greater Columbus. Each Vet and family will receive a 5-pound Honey Baked Ham® with sides, a dessert from Eddie Merlot's, cookies from Costco and drinks. The following companies and organizations are assisting in this effort:**

- **Polaris Financial Partners is underwriting this event**
  - **Eddie Merlot's**
  - **Honey Baked® Ham of Polaris**
  - **Costco of Polaris**
  - **St Francis DeSales High School**
  - **Holy Family Soup Kitchen of Downtown Columbus**
  - **HMB, Inc. of Westerville**
  - **VCAS – Veteran Companion Animal Services of Columbus**
  - **And Santa Claus will be joining us from the North Pole in military attire**
- 
- **Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 4 pm at St. Francis DeSales High School Parking Lot**
  - **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Eddie Merlot's Lot from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**If you would like to assist or contribute, we have set up a [GoFundMe Page](#) on our [Polaris Financial Partners](#) website which allows clients and the Columbus community to get directly involved. 100% of all donations to the GoFundMe Page will support the Holy Family Soup Kitchen of Columbus. Father Stash Dailey and his team serve 400 homeless in Columbus every day – many of whom are our vets. Please call Steven with any questions or you may go to our website to find out more. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to chatting with you soon.**



**Securities and Advisory services offered through Cadaret, Grant & Co and Polaris Financial Partners, Registered Investment Advisors, members FINRA/SIPC. Cadaret, Grant and Polaris Financial Partners are separate entities. Past performance is not indicative of future results.**