Veterans and Traumatic Brain Injury

Did you know that an estimated 400,000+ service members have suffered from TBI between 2000 and 2018? The DOD and the VA have established Defense and Veteran Brain Injury Centers across the country to help veterans cope and heal from TBI. Learn how veterans can get help during a special webinar Tuesday, February 4th. All library staff and volunteers are welcome to join in.

Register for the webinar here: https://infopeople.org/civicrm/event/info?id=884&reset=1

About the presenter: Jessica Huckabay received a Master of Public Health degree (MPH) with a focus in community health education and is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS). She works as Regional Education Coordinator for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center.

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Do you have something to contribute? Please email wolfe@plpinfo.org

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Monrovia Veterans Connect In the News Again!

We are so happy to share that the Veterans Resource Center at the Monrovia Public Library was given the 2019 Military Service and Stewardship Award by the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce on Friday, January 24th at the DoubleTree Hotel in Monrovia. Veterans Coordinator Mabel Cross and volunteer Benefit Coaches Richard McCubbins and Michael Kaplan accepted the award. In addition, the Veterans Resource received certificates of recognition from the following representatives:

Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano
Congresswoman Judy Chu
Assembly Member Chris Holden
Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger
City of Monrovia Mayor and City Council Members
Monrovia Unified School District Superintendent and Board

Here is how the award came about:

In 2019, Mabel Cross, Veterans Resource Coordinator, gave a presentation to the Library Board highlighting the number of veterans and their family members served by the Veterans Resource Center. The Monrovia Public Library Board members were so impressed with Mabel’s passionate presentation and the work being done at the Center, they offered to host a breakfast to honor the Center’s volunteers. At the breakfast, volunteers were given an opportunity to share their experiences working with veterans and their family members and what volunteering at the Veterans Resource Center meant to them. It was a wonderful opportunity for Mabel and volunteers who spend countless hours assisting and supporting veterans in often emotionally taxing situations, to be recognized and appreciated.

On that day, a City Councilmember attended the breakfast and shared her personal experience regarding her son (who lives in another state) and the challenges he has faced after his service. It was clear to all that this was a difficult situation for her as a family member of a veteran in need of support. She stated that she wished there were Veterans Resource Centers where he lives because she felt he would benefit from the support that the Center’s volunteers offer veterans and their family members.

Each year, the Monrovia Chamber gives recognition to four exceptional organizations from the community and presents prestigious awards.

The City Councilmember who attended the breakfast was so moved by the work that is done at the Veterans Resource Center, she nominated the Center for the award. Lastly, Mabel Cross gave an acceptance speech at the awards dinner and the audience was so moved by her passionate speech, she was given a standing ovation. Several representatives from the community approached her at the dinner and gave her their cards. First thing Monday morning, an attendee showed up at the library asking for Mabel to find out how he could help.

Rebecca Elder, Adult Services Librarian
Monrovia Public Library