
AWS
re:Invent
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Thank you for your service: Technology that appreciates

Chaplain Curtis Drafton

Founder
U.S. Veterans Hall of Fame

aws

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Thank You For Your Service!

Adapting software for veteran inclusivity

DID YOU KNOW?

200,000 men and women leave the military annually!

This means that over 16,500 people are re-entering civilian life after an average military career of 3 to 17 years.

Most of them have been adept to military-grade or private technology that is specific to the defense of the nation and world…

… now they enter a consumer technology world that is totally foreign to them.

Who will assist them? What ways will be made to accommodate them?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Of the 18.1 million living veterans (in America), and the 1 million U.S. veterans living abroad (as ex-patriots), over 80% were born between 1970 and 2000.

This means that well over 15 million veterans are within the “technological advanced movement age”: a phrase that was coined by Bill Gates after Apple released the first iPhone in 2007.

However, with all of the advancements, the veteran demographic was one of few groups not specifically surveyed to see what their needs might be to adapt to the new age of technology.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This is crucial and critical in many ways, being that:

- Veterans in the current age must claim and review benefits electronically.
- They must apply for careers and career-related testing electronically.
- Most civilian (consumer) markets are virtually adaptive.

None of these modes of operations are covered or relayed to veterans as they exit their final duty stations.

Oftentimes this leads to frustration, underappreciation, and homelessness as they give up on the process of transition.

Areas impacted by non-tech savviness

HOME

RELAX / REJUVENATE

WORK

PROVIDE / LEARN

SOCIAL

CONNECT / GATHER

DREAMS

PRIVATE / INNOVATIVE

So what do we do?

Where do we start?

THE US VETERANS
HALL OF FAME

ENTER AWS / AMAZON!!!

***and all tech partners who are inclusive and innovative**

AWS and Amazon are on the cutting edge of fixing many of the veteran-to-civilian-life situations.

Through ERGs, they are taking the time to reach out to the veteran community, as well as active duty, to find out the ways they can assist veterans to avoid many of the dreaded statistics that our veterans face: and bring real solutions!



That last slide took up our budget…

Don’t tell my team!



THE US VETERANS HALL OF FAME

So where does this bring us and where do we start?

From cell phones to software, appliances to laptops: we ask the global technology community to continue to strive in reaching out to our military organizations (private and nonprofit) to collaborate in becoming more user friendly, for those who have not been able to go on the consumer tech journey due to their commitments to protecting our country and world.



THE US VETERANS
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Thank you!



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