

# Thank them for their service.

"If you have been wounded or injured serving this nation, real people are going to meet you face-to-face with the personalized help that you may need to recover and to succeed in a career that you love."

Secretary of Labor  
Elaine L. Chao



## A Wounded & Injured Veterans' Summit on Recovery, Rehabilitation and Employment

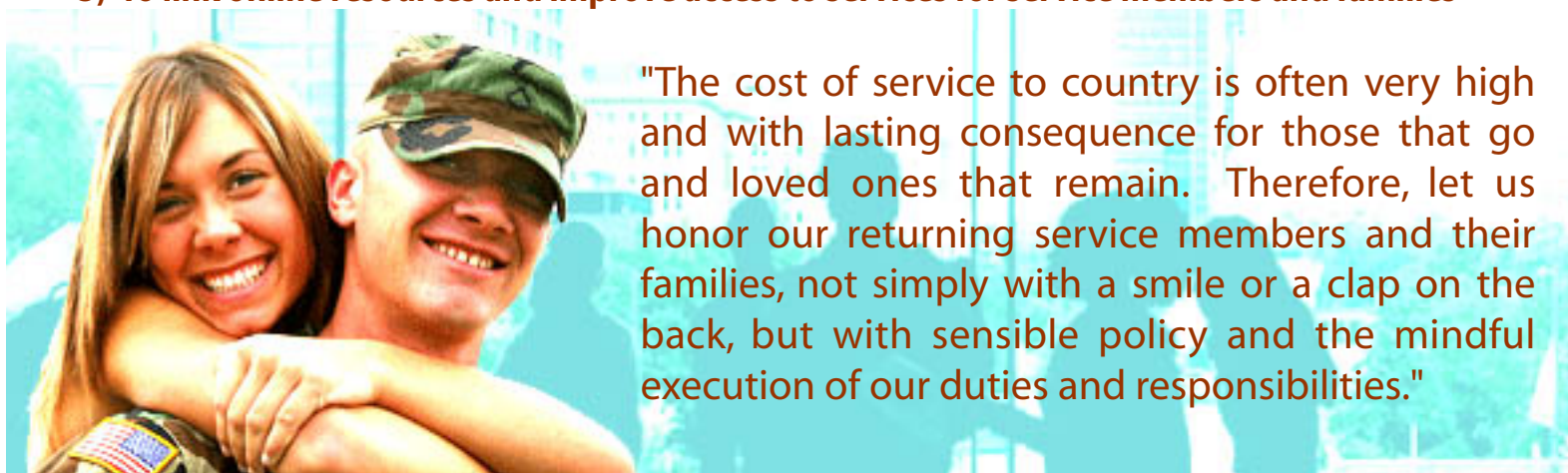


## A National Dialogue

The Governor of Alabama, and the U.S. Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs, in response to the need for increased national collaboration among assistance networks, are hosting a national dialogue to highlight the issues, programs, and best practices employed at federal, state and community levels to assure the recovery and return to success of transitioning wounded, injured and disabled service members **and their families.**

The Summit is a one and a half day blend of interactive discussions and workshops with the following goals:

- 1) **To connect programs nationwide that focus on the recovery, rehabilitation and employment of wounded and Injured veterans and their families**
- 2) **To capture and share best employment practices at the Federal, State and Local levels**
- 3) **To link online resources and improve access to services for service members and families**



"The cost of service to country is often very high and with lasting consequence for those that go and loved ones that remain. Therefore, let us honor our returning service members and their families, not simply with a smile or a clap on the back, but with sensible policy and the mindful execution of our duties and responsibilities."

National Summit events :

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Dialogue with Government leadership regarding transition collaboration

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Best Practice modeling, transition planning and referral networking for state and local government

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State-of-Technology Fair on workplace accommodation resources and practices

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Non-governmental organization dialogue and solutions planning

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Interactive webinar for online resource networking

## Closing the gaps

In 2004, the U.S. Department of Labor formally established a gateway program for employment and transition assistance called the Recovery & Employment Assistance Lifelines (REALifelines) program. The first state partnership initiative (Operation Grateful Heart) was launched that same year by the State of Alabama. In 2005, the Department of Defense established an operational center for these and other efforts at the Military Severely Injured Center .

These collaborative efforts and model programs are but a small part of a surge of national initiatives and organizations seeking to assure the success of returning service members and their families. This Summit is the beginning of a national dialogue to close the gaps between federal, state, local and private initiatives, to capture best practices, and to improve the lives and opportunities for our nation's returning heroes.

**LOCATION:** AUBURN UNIVERSITY HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER, AUBURN, ALABAMA

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 20 - 21, 2006

**Register Online at:** <http://www.dol.gov/vets/REALifelines/>

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