



May 7, 2007

In this Issue:

Helping America's Heroes.....1
US Small Business Association Helping Small Businesses.....1
President Bush Commemorates National Day of Prayer2

Helping America's Heroes

The end of May ushers in Memorial Day, a day when our nation pauses to honor our men and women who have given their lives in service for our nation's freedom and protection. During this time, our thoughts turn also to the brave veterans who valiantly served and continue to serve in our nation's military.

The vast majority of men and women serve our country's military efforts and return to resume a normal life. Sadly though, a percentage of veterans become discouraged, are unable to maintain steady relationships, a stable home or the satisfaction of productive work. Worse yet, some struggle with devastating addictions, mental illness, or debilitating physical problems.



Over the past twenty years, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has collaborated with thousands of faith-based and community veteran service organizations to aid more than 400,000 homeless veterans.

Help is available through VA hospitals, regional benefit offices, and more than 350 community and faith-based organizations' transitional housing

programs. These efforts provide medical care, access to benefits, and new links to community resources that offer residential care and treatment to homeless veterans.

Also during the past twenty years, the VA sponsored more than 2,000 Stand Downs across the country. Stand Downs provide assistance to veterans and their families where they can find a "hand stretched out to assist – not a hand out." These events vary in length from one-day events (generally called "benefits fairs") to two- or three-day events. More than 300,000 veterans, aided by 250,000 volunteers, have been reached through this effort with events in every state, the District of Columbia, and many US Territories and tribal lands.

Americans have a heart for veterans and continue to offer a "hand-up." Community connections and spiritual assistance have helped many to successfully rejoin society.

To find out more information about benefits for veterans who are homeless or struggling, please visit www.va.gov/homeless .

US Small Business Association Helping Small Businesses

In 2001 Mr. Lawrence Moore, a veteran Chicago-area police officer and a former U.S. Marine, founded Gideons 300 Security Services, a multi-faceted security organization. After thirty-three years as a police officer, Mr. Moore decided to start his own firm to fulfill his entrepreneurial dreams. He operated a security firm since 1988,

but wanted to own and operate his own business full-time.

Mr. Moore started with two support staff in his office and only himself to provide security services. One year into operation Mr. Moore sought help from SBA's SCORE office at

Governor's State University. Subsequently Gideons 300 became certified with SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program, the GSA, City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and other agencies.

Gideons 300 now has 45 employees with numerous security contracts, including NOBLE Square, a 28-story condominium complex in Chicago. Related services that are provided by Gideons 300 include training for both unarmed and armed security guards, a private detective service and guard dog

services. Mr. Moore is now a client of The Joseph Center Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the first faith-based SBDC. The Joseph Center works with Mr. Moore to help connect him with prospective purchasers of his services. They are poised to develop Homeland Security contract opportunities with state, federal and local agencies.



President Bush Commemorates National Day of Prayer

On May 3, 2007 President George W. Bush hosted an event commemorating the National Day of Prayer in the East Room of the White House. In attendance were national guests, representatives of faith-based and community organizations. The National Day of Prayer began on April 17, 1952 when President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law. In 1988, President Reagan signed a bill into law decreeing that the National Day of Prayer should be held on the first Thursday of May.

The intention of the National Day of Prayer was always that it would be a day when members of all faiths could pray together in their own way. People of all faiths who wish to participate are welcome.



The Chairwoman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, Mrs. Shirley Dobson, and the wife Dr. James Dobson, Founder and President of Focus on the Family, gave opening remarks. President Bush said that Americans are a prayerful people and that we pray for many reasons.

“First, we pray to give thanks for the blessings the Almighty has bestowed upon us. We pray to give thanks. We give thanks for our freedom. We give thanks for the brave men and women who risk their lives to defend it. We give thanks for our families who love and support us. We give thanks for our plenty. We give thanks for our nation.

Second, we pray for the strength to follow God's will in our lives, and for forgiveness when we fail to do so. Through prayer, each of us is reminded that we are fallen creatures in need of mercy, and in seeking the mercy and compassion of a loving God, we grow in mercy and compassion ourselves.

We feel the tug at our souls to reach out to the poor, the elderly, the stranger in distress. And by answering this call to care for our brothers and sisters in need, our hearts grow larger and we enter into a deeper relationship with God.”

People of all faiths attended as well as many leaders from faith and community based organizations who work tirelessly to serve their fellow neighbors in need. “We welcome people of all faiths into the United States of America,” said President Bush.

To read more about this event please visit www.WhiteHouse.gov.