

NASWA 2019 Veterans Conference Agenda

Tuesday, August 6:

7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	Hosted Breakfast (committee members & invited guests only)	Penn Quarter AB
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Veterans Committee Meeting (committee members & invited guests only)	Constitution CDE
Midmorning	Break (committee members & invited guests only)	Constitution Foyer
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Hosted Lunch (committee members & invited guests only)	Penn Quarter AB
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Set-Up	Independence Foyer
Midafternoon	Break (committee members & invited guests only)	Constitution Foyer

Wednesday, August 7:

7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	Hosted Breakfast (committee members & invited guests only)	Penn Quarter AB
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Veterans Committee meeting (committee members & invited guests only)	Constitution CDE
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Conference registration	Independence Foyer
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Exhibit Showcase	Independence Foyer
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Virtual Career Event (tentative)	Location TBA
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Pre-Conference Employment Workshop (tentative)	Location TBA
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Lunch on your own	
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Conference Opening Ceremonies	Independence Ballroom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions by Mike Slater*, <i>Strategic Outreach Specialist, USDOL VETS</i> • Welcome to the Sixth Annual NASWA Veterans Conference by Beth Townsend*, <i>Executive Director, Iowa Workforce Development, and Chair, NASWA Veterans Affairs Committee</i> • Colors presented by Joint Armed Forces Color Guard of the Military District of Washington* (invited) • The National Anthem sung by Dennis Wimer*, <i>Executive Director, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs</i> • The Pledge of Allegiance led by Ryan Thompson*, <i>Assistant Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services</i> • Introduction of the NASWA Veterans Affairs Committee members by Beth Townsend* • Welcome to the District of Columbia by Elliot Tommingo*, <i>Director, DC Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs</i> • Remarks by Sam Shellenberger*, <i>Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor, USDOL VETS</i> • Remarks by Scott B. Sanders, <i>Executive Director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)</i> 	
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Keynote speaker: Flo Groberg* , <i>Captain, US Army, Medal of Honor recipient</i>	Independence Ballroom
	Army Captain Florent "Flo" Groberg was on his second deployment to Afghanistan in August 2012 when he demonstrated the selflessness and bravery that earned him the Medal of Honor. Tackling a suicide bomber and saving countless lives while protecting fellow soldiers, Groberg's actions that day made him only the 10 th living American to receive the nation's top award for valor in combat	

since the attacks on September 11, 2001. Today, as director of veteran's outreach at Boeing and LinkedIn's veteran's program spokesperson, he is a powerful and prominent advocate for veterans' issues. He will reveal how people and experiences throughout his life influenced his heroism, and share inspirational thoughts about going above and beyond the call of duty, finding positive in the negative, and summoning your best in the most adverse conditions.

3:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. **A Word from Microsoft, our Speaker Sponsor** Independence Ballroom

3:10 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. Remarks by **Colonel Prescott Farris***, *Director, Soldier for Life* Independence Ballroom

Soldier For Life is an official program of the United States Army created to help connect Soldiers, Retired Soldiers, Veterans and their Families, with people in the community who can aid them with access to opportunities and resources to achieve their civilian career and life goals.

3:20 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. **A Word from Our Platinum Sponsors** Independence Ballroom

3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. **Networking Break** Independence Foyer

3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Seeing the Signs – What You Can & Should Do to Help Prevent Suicide** Independence Ballroom

Presented by: Dr. Keita Franklin LCSW, PhD, National Director, Suicide Prevention, US Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Dr. Franklin will cover the basics of suicide prevention and equip attendees with strategies and resources to support the Veterans in their state's workforce. Attendees will learn how to understand the scope of suicide as a national public health issue; recognize important suicide risk factors and warning signs to know; and leverage evidence-based best practices to identify and support at-risk Veterans in the workforce.

5:00 p.m. **Conference adjourns for the day; Dinner on your own**

Thursday, August 8:

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. **Hosted Breakfast** Independence Ballroom

7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Conference Registration** Independence Foyer

7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Exhibit Showcase** Independence Foyer

8:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. **A Word from Our Gold Sponsors** Independence Ballroom

8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. **An Employer's Perspective** Independence Ballroom

Moderator: Charlie Terrell, National Labor Exchange Director, NASWA

Panelists:

- **Carol Eggert***, *Senior Vice President, Military & Veteran Affairs, Comcast NBCUniversal*
- **Chip Hawkins***, *Diversity Program Lead, Aetna*
- **Deloitte representative** (*invited*)
- **George Ploss***, *Senior Program Manager, Veteran's Recruiting, Compliance & Diversity, Oracle (tentative)*
- **Joe Wallis***, *Director, Military Engagement, Microsoft Military Affairs*
- **Lewis Runnion***, *Managing Partner, Eleven-09*

5-19-19

9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	A Word from Our Silver Sponsors	Independence Ballroom
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Networking Break	Independence Foyer
10:30 a.m. to 12 noon	Concurrent Breakout Sessions (seven sessions)	
1.	Native American/American Indian Veterans (Workshop Track #1) <i>Moderator: Matt Brogdon*, founder, Pathfinder Consulting</i> <i>Presenters: Juanita Mullen*, American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans Liaison, Center for Minority Veterans, US Department of Veterans Affairs; MSG Lorena Wilson*, Regional Deputy Director, Northeast US & Europe, Soldier for Life; Christopher Key, CEO & Founder, True North Diversified; other speakers to be identified</i>	Franklin Square
2.	Leveraging LinkedIn for Veterans, Military Spouses & Business Engagement This session will focus on new tools and tips to make the most of your LinkedIn presence. If you aren't using LinkedIn to connect with employers, service providers, and other Veterans, you are missing out! And now LinkedIn has partnered with the Department of Defense's Spouse Education & Career Opportunities program to provide no-cost year-long LinkedIn Premium memberships to military spouses. <i>Presenters: Sarah Roberts*, Head of Military & Veteran Programs, LinkedIn; Michael Quinn*, Senior Manager, People Advisory Services, Ernst & Young</i>	McPherson Square
3.	Veteran Jobs Mission – <i>this session will be repeated Thursday afternoon</i> It began in 2011 as the 100,000 Jobs Mission with 11 leading companies committed to hiring 100,000 veterans by 2020. Since then, the coalition has evolved to 200+ leading member companies that represent virtually every industry in the United States economy. The coalition has been renamed the Veteran Jobs Mission and has collectively hired more than 488,000 veterans. How did they do it, and what advice do they have for Veterans job seekers? <i>Presenters: Jason Wright*, Vice President, JPMorgan Chase; Tom Downs*, Senior Manager, Diversity Talent Acquisition Lead, Capital One; Edward Carr*, Director, Military & Veteran Affairs, Comcast NBCUniversal; Todd Karch*, Senior Regional Talent Supply Chain Leader, Amazon; Tiffany Daugherty*, Vice President, Military Affairs, Barclays</i>	Lafayette Park
4.	State Promising Practices <i>a. North Carolina: "What is Priority of Service?"</i> The state of North Carolina has partnered with USDOL VETS to make sure Veterans are receiving precedence over non-covered persons in obtaining all employment and training services. Come to this session to learn what's required, what's not, what's covered, what's not, and how one state developed training to ensure everyone understands the principles of POS. <i>Presenters: Archie Barrow*, State JVSG Director, and Lane Dyer*, North Carolina DVET.</i> <i>b. Washington State: "Recognizing Those Who Hire Veterans ... The Other Half of the Career Formula."</i> Washington State has three district programs for recognizing employers who recruit, hire, retain and honor Veterans in their workforce. This session will tell you about their Commissioner's Hire-a-Veteran award, the YesVets program, and how	Farragut Square

they actively promote the USDOL Hire Vets Medallion Program – following a complimentary approach that focuses on the unique scope and intent of each award.

*Presenters: **Sam Mitchell***, Program Operator, Veteran & Military Family Initiatives, **Monique Martin***, Program Coordinator, State Veterans Program*

c. New York: “Collaborative Innovation in Veterans Services and Care”

In this session, Colonel (US Army, Retired) Jim McDonough, Director of Veterans Services for New York State, and former Managing Director for the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University, will share innovative strategies and promising practices supporting the needs of the state’s military connected members and their families.

*Presenter: **Jim McDonough***, Director, New York State Division of Veterans Services*

5. Microsoft Software & Systems Academy

Independence F-G

This Microsoft training fast tracks veterans into sweet tech careers! In partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Saint Martin’s University, Microsoft’s Software and Systems Academy prepares service members for a new career post service in the IT industry. Training is available for high-demand jobs in cloud development, cloud administration, cybersecurity administration, and database/business intelligence administration. Program graduates have the opportunity to interview for full-time jobs with Microsoft and other hiring partners.

*Presenters: Microsoft speaker(s); **Jim Beamesderfer***, Vice President, Veterans Initiatives, Prudential; other speakers coming soon!*

6. Serving Military Caretakers – this session will be repeated Thursday afternoon

Independence H-I

This panel will raise the awareness to the needs, challenges and the importance of employment initiatives for military caregivers. A collaborative approach between organizations is necessary in addressing military spouse and caregiver employment issues. Panel members will present current efforts to elevate knowledge, promote support, and increase employment initiatives for military caregivers.

*Facilitator: **Dr. Tina Atherall**, CEO, PsychArmor Institute*

*Panelists: **Liz O’Brien***, Director, Military Spouse Program, Hiring Our Heroes; **Steve Schwab**, CEO, Elizabeth Dole Foundation; **Ashley Bunce**, Director of Community Partnerships & Investments, Wounded Warrior Project; **Kayla Williams***, Director of Military, Veterans and Society programs, Center for New American Security; other panelists to be identified.*

7. Brain Drain, Brain Gain & Our Sustainable Future: Boosting Employment Options for Veterans and Military Spouses

Bulfinch-Latrobe

The nationwide employment picture is strong, but rural areas lag far behind in recovery and employment rates. In fact, 10 years after the beginning of the great economic recession in December 2007, rural America still hadn’t recovered. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, rural counties had 770,000 fewer jobs in October 2017 than they had in 2007. Greater economic diversity, increased hiring and training opportunities can help them keep pace with their urban counterparts through limitless employment opportunities in the global, digital economy. Changes in technology, skills requirements, work relationships, and demographics threaten to leave many workers behind, but remote jobs offer ways to broaden and diversify the types of jobs and

companies that these communities can benefit from. Long gone are the days when virtual admin, data entry, and writing are the only “work from home” jobs. Learn how partnerships like those with FlexJobs, Hilton and Utah’s Online Jobs Initiative can serve as a fantastic model for how access to remote jobs can benefit other rural areas impacted by high unemployment and scant locally based job opportunities.

*Presenters: **Mika Cross***, Vice President, Employer Engagements, FlexJobs; **Laurel Farrer**, Strategist, Rural Online Initiative, Utah State University Extension; **Lori Adams**, Veterans Policy Director, NASWA; **Melissa Stirling**, Director, Military Programs, Hilton Worldwide; **Mininia Hawkins**, Military Community Support Programs, Department of Defense, Military Community & Family Policy*

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| 12 noon to 1:15 p.m. | Plated Lunch | Independence Ballroom |
| 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. | 50 States: Veterans + Artists United | Independence Ballroom |
| | Michigan-based nonprofit, [HAS HEART] is taking its HERO[series] on the road for a "50 States: Veterans + Artists United" working tour traveling state-to-state to partner a Veteran with a graphic designer in every state to give each Veteran a creative voice through art, design, and fashion. | |
| | <i>Featured speaker: Tyler Way, artist/designer, [HAS HEART]</i> | |
| 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Concurrent Breakout Sessions (seven sessions) | |
| | 1. Native American/American Indian Veterans (Workshop Track #2) | Franklin Square |
| | <i>Moderator: Matt Brogdon*, founder, Pathfinder Consulting</i> | |
| | <i>Presenters: Juanita Mullen*, American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans Liaison, US Department of Veterans Affairs; MSG Lorena Wilson*, Regional Deputy Director, Northeast US & Europe, Soldier for Life; Christopher Key, CEO & Founder, True North Diversified; other speakers to be identified</i> | |
| | 2. Disability Accessibility is Just an App Away | McPherson Square |
| | Not only is your smartphone much more powerful than the computers NASA used to send a man to the moon, but it also provides access to a number of accessible tools to help people with vision and hearing problems, learning disabilities, mental health issues, mobility limitations, and much more. These same tools – most available at no cost – also provide solutions to employers looking for reasonable accommodations under the ADA. Bring your phone with you to this <u>hands-on</u> session, and discover tools that are only an app away. | |
| | <i>Presenter: Jeff Farley, Windows Technical Solutions Professional, Microsoft</i> | |
| | 3. Veteran Jobs Mission – this session is a repeat from Thursday afternoon | Lafayette Park |
| | It began in 2011 as the 100,000 Jobs Mission with 11 leading companies committed to hiring 100,000 veterans by 2020. Since then, the coalition has evolved to 200+ leading member companies that represent virtually every industry in the United States economy. The coalition has been renamed the Veteran Jobs Mission and has collectively hired more than 488,000 veterans. How did they do it, and what advice do they have for Veterans job seekers? | |
| | <i>Presenters: Jason Wright*, Vice President, JPMorgan Chase; Tom Downs*, Senior Manager, Diversity Talent Acquisition Lead, Capital One; Edward Carr*, Director, Military & Veteran Affairs, Comcast NBCUniversal; Todd Karch*, Senior Regional Talent Supply Chain Leader, Amazon; Tiffany Daugherty*, Vice President, Military Affairs, Barclays</i> | |

- 4. What’s New at NVTI?** Farragut Square
 Representatives from Management Concepts, who operate the National Veterans Training Institute, have developed several new courses and products in the past year to better equip state-funded staff to serve Veterans, Transitioning Service Members and military spouses. Come to this session to hear about the new Advanced Business Services and Career Coaching courses, tools to help track student attendance, the Jobs for Veterans State Grant Primer, and other resource products in the works.
Presenters: Roy Kyles, Program Manager, Management Concepts; Richard Lashford, SPHR, PMP, Deputy Program Manager, Management Concepts; Dr. Hannah Toney, Director in Learning & Technology Solutions, Management Concepts
- 5. How Virtual Engagement is Changing the Landscape of Veteran Recruitment – this session will be repeated Thursday afternoon** Independence F-G
 There are several challenges that limit the ability of transitioning military, veterans, and milspouses to connect and engage with civilian employers. Some challenges relate to simple resources (from employer manpower, travel budgets, and ability to get to all the transition sites to transitioning military and milspouses being unable to get to recruitment events). However, the digital landscape impacts the ability of outreach to extend beyond the barriers. Companies have already begun to implement ways to engage in the virtual space, but there is more to be done. Three employers who are committed to helping military secure meaningful civilian employment, present some of the better practices that address these challenges but also discuss where solutions are still evolving.
Presenters: Elizabeth Guevara, Project Opportunity Lead, Nestlé USA; Michael Quinn, Senior Manager, Advisory – Government & Public Sector, Ernst & Young; Coral Zelachowski, Manager, Strategic Sourcing/Talent Acquisition, Sodexo USA*
- 6. Serving Military Caretakers – this session is a repeat from Thursday morning** Independence H-I
 This panel will raise the awareness to the needs, challenges and the importance of employment initiatives for military caregivers. A collaborative approach between organizations is necessary in addressing military spouse and caregiver employment issues. Panel members will present current efforts to elevate knowledge, promote support, and increase employment initiatives for military caregivers.
Facilitator: Dr. Tina Atherall, CEO, PsychArmor Institute
Panelists: Liz O’Brien’, Director, Military Spouse Program, Hiring Our Heroes; Steve Schwab, CEO, Elizabeth Dole Foundation; Ashley Bunce, Director of Community Partnerships & Investments, Wounded Warrior Project; Kayla Williams’, Director of Military, Veterans and Society programs, Center for New American Security; other panelists to be identified.*
- 7. Warm Handoffs: Connecting Transitioning Service Members with an American Job Center** Bulfinch-Latrobe
Presenters: Emily Appel-Newby, Manager, Justice, Workforce & Community Development, ICF; Ivan Denton, Director, Office of National Programs, USDOL VETS; Linda Rouse*’, District Manager, Iowa Workforce Development; additional presenters as identified*
- 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Networking break** Independence Foyer
 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Concurrent Breakout Sessions (seven sessions)**
1. Native American/American Indian Veterans (Workshop Track #3) Franklin Square

American Indian and Alaska Native people have a proud tradition of serving in the United States military, and at a higher rate than any other group. Unfortunately, many have not been able to access the same type and level of service as their non-Native American counterparts after they return home – but that is changing. This session will highlight efforts underway in North Carolina, Washington State and New Mexico to serve American Indian Veterans, including hiring American Indians as JVSG-funded staff, and offering cultural competency training.

*Presenters: Archie Barrow**, North Carolina JVSG Director, *Lane Dyer**, North Carolina DVET, USDOL; *Sam Mitchell**, Washington State Program Operator, Veteran & Military Family Initiatives, *Monique Martin**, Program Coordinator, Washington State Veterans Program; *Christian Zafra**, Tribal Liaison and JVSG State Coordinator, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

2. Focus on Skills for Success

McPherson Square

In this session, you will learn why focusing on skills leads to success – for you, for the Veteran and for employers. Why in today's low unemployment numbers, Veterans need assistance getting careers, not jobs. You will learn why companies large and small need to also focus on skills, and how you can connect employers and Veterans more effectively. Then once connected, how you can help employers capitalize and further develop veterans for long-term retention.

*Presenter: Robyn Grable**, CEO, Veterans ASCEND

3. Military Spouses as Assets in the Modern Workforce

Lafayette Park

According to the 2012 American Community Survey, military spouses earn 38% less and are 30% more likely to be unemployed than civilian counterparts. Military Spouses bring skills, adaptability, and a sense of team over self that is more valuable than ever in the constantly changing business landscape. This panel will explore best practices for advising military spouses and for companies that want to hire from this rich talent pool.

*Presenters: Dr. Vivian Greentree**, Senior Vice President, Head of Corporate Citizenship, First Data Corporation; *Tiffany Daugherty**, Vice President, Military Affairs, Barclays; *Linda Rouse**, District Manager, Iowa Workforce Development; *Charlie Palumbo**, Transition & Employment Program Director, Virginia Department of Veterans Services; plus other panelists to be identified.

4. State Promising Practices

Farragut Square

a. Michigan: "Boots to Heels: Facts About Military Women."

Women have been serving in the military since 1775 and worked alongside men to support various military campaigns. However, many women Veterans are still battling stereotypes and barriers that prevent them from being honored in the same way as male Veterans. This presentation will bring to light some of the accomplishments and facts about women Veterans. Everyone should take special interest in this growing population, since the number of women Veterans is expected to triple by the year 2040. *Presenter: Rebecca Flemming**, Employment Services Manager.

b. Colorado: "Network for Success: Colorado AD Works! Veteran Networking Events."

Monthly networking events at Arapahoe-Douglas Works! (ADW) offer not only access to job openings, but also focus on job skill development, and offer mentoring opportunities with HR professionals from companies such as the State Office of

Information Technology, Northrop Grumman Corporation, FirstBank, Verizon Wireless, Pacific Architects and Engineers (PAE), Concord Energy Holdings LLC., and Denver Health. This presentation will show how the ADW networking events can be easily replicated by other states using existing facilities and resources with little-to-no cost.

*Presenter: **Martin J. Bangert**,* Regional Veteran Employment Representative*

c. **Washington State: “Professional Pathways – Integrating AJC Staff Across Programs.”**

Professional Pathways is a program being pioneered by the Washington State Employment Security Department. This presentation will demonstrate how Washington State is ensuring staff have the knowledge needed to effectively integrate under WIOA and TAA. It will also show how Washington State takes on the mission that every AJC employee will serve Veterans - not just DVOPs and LVERs. *Presenters: **Nona Mallicoat***, Strategic Operations Manager, **Brad McGarvie**, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, **Phil Castle**, Chief Learning Officer & Organizational Development Manager*

5. **How Virtual Engagement is Changing the Landscape of Veteran Recruitment – this session is a repeat from earlier Thursday Independence F-G**

There are several challenges that limit the ability of transitioning military, veterans, and milspouses to connect and engage with civilian employers. Some challenges relate to simple resources (from employer manpower, travel budgets, and ability to get to all the transition sites to transitioning military and milspouses being unable to get to recruitment events). However, the digital landscape impacts the ability of outreach to extend beyond the barriers. Companies have already begun to implement ways to engage in the virtual space, but there is more to be done. Three employers who are committed to helping military secure meaningful civilian employment, present some of the better practices that address these challenges but also discuss where solutions are still evolving.

*Presenters: **Elizabeth Guevara**, Project Opportunity Lead, Nestlé USA; **Michael Quinn***, Senior Manager, Advisory – Government & Public Sector, Ernst & Young; **Coral Zelachowski**, Manager, Strategic Sourcing/Talent Acquisition, Sodexo USA*

6. **Realistic Expectations: Wage Opportunities & Outcomes for Today’s Veteran Independence H-I**

*Presenter: **Luke Murren***, Program & Performance Analyst, USDOL VETS; **Nicholas Morgan***, President, Adaptive Construction Solutions (invited); and other presenters to be identified*

7. **Office of Disability Employment Policy: Focus on Veterans Bulfinch-Latrobe**

*Presenter: **Richard Davis**, Senior Policy Advisor, USDOL Office of Disability Employment Policy; and another subject matter expert to be identified*

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Hosted Networking Reception with Your Colleagues** Location TBA

Friday, August 9:

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Hosted Breakfast	Independence Ballroom
7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Registration/Information Desk Open	Independence Foyer
7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Exhibit Showcase	Independence Foyer

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- 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. **Mark Sanders Award Presentation & Recognition of Nominees** Independence Ballroom
*Moderator: **Scott Sanders**, Executive Director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies*
The 2019 Mark Sanders Award for Exceptional Service to Veterans, with special emphasis on Veterans with Significant Barriers to employment, recognizes the efforts of an entire one-stop career center whose efforts to serve Veterans go above and beyond the scope of mandatory service provision. This award is named in honor of Mark Sanders, who, during his distinguished career with the California Employment Development Department and in leadership positions with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, was untiring in his efforts to promote excellence in services to Disabled Veterans.
- 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Navigating Resources: **PATRIOTLink** Independence Ballroom
PATRIOTlink enables all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors access to vetted, direct, cost-free, Veteran services. Users can browse and use hundreds of available resources. The Code of Support Foundation also offers one-on-one assistance to struggling service members, Veterans and their families with the most complex needs.
*Presenter: **Kristy Kaufmann**’, Chief Executive Officer, Code of Support Foundation*
- 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. **Veteran Entrepreneurs Panel** Independence Ballroom
Corporate America isn’t for everyone. This panel will feature Veteran entrepreneurs who decided owning their own business was the best fit for them. They will discuss how they got started, and how they got to where they are today.
*Moderator: **Cherylynn Sagester**, Director, Virginia Veterans Outreach Center.*
*Panelists: **Eleanor Thornton**’, Visionary Consulting Partners; **Michael Thornton***, Visionary Consulting Partners; **Suzie Mills***, Honest Soul Yoga; **Sheretha Gordon***, Strategic Steps Consulting (invited); **Chelsea Mandello***, Troopster Military Care Packages; **Austin Burkett***, Amazon*
- 10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. **Coffee refresh** Independence Foyer
- 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. **“UnstoppABLE” - **Shaun Castle***, Deputy Executive Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Professional Athlete**
- Independence Ballroom
*A career-ending injury, numerous surgeries and a life-threatening allergy to pain medications hasn’t stopped Army **Sergeant Shaun Castle***, or even slowed him down. After discovering adaptive sports, he went on to play professional wheelchair basketball, graduate from the University of Alabama, plans to be the second person to complete a marathon in an everyday chair, and shares his optimism and pioneering spirit with others by demonstrating how to be “UnstoppABLE.”*
- 11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Closing remarks – **Scott Sanders & Beth Townsend***** Independence Ballroom
- 11:30 a.m. **Conference adjourns!** Safe travels everyone. See you again in 2020!

* Denotes an individual is currently serving or is a Veteran of the United States military. If they are wearing a Veteran ribbon on their name badge, please thank them for their service, and ask them what you can do for them.

’ Denotes a military spouse. If they are wearing a Military Spouse ribbon on their name badge, please thank them for their support.