

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

WHENEVER YOU THINK ABOUT AMERICA'S VETERANS, CONSIDER THOSE FOR WHOM WAR'S IMPACT STILL LINGERS. AMONG THESE ARE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO LOST THEIR VISION. TO HELP, VETERANS OF SEVERAL CONFLICTS WHO BELONG TO THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION, OR B-V-A, SHARE THEIR STORIES, ADVOCATE, AND ARE THERE FOR EACH OTHER. FOR EXAMPLE, WITH AN ASSIST FROM B-V-A'S OPERATION PEER SUPPORT INITIATIVE, MASTER SERGEANT (RETIRED) ERIC MARTS SHARED HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH RESEARCHERS STUDYING THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ON VISION. MARTS VISITS MILITARY AND V-A HOSPITALS AND DOES PEER MENTORING OVER THE PHONE. HE ALSO STARTED A WEEKLY RADIO SHOW TO REACH OUT TO OTHER VETERANS AND INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF VETERANS' ISSUES. LIFE AFTER SERVICE CAN BE A CHALLENGE, BUT HAVING SOMEONE TO DEPEND ON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. B-V-A'S MOTTO, "BLINDED VETERANS HELPING BLINDED VETERANS," IS AS TRUE TODAY AS WHEN THE ORGANIZATION WAS FOUNDED IN THE 1940s. LEARN MORE AT B-V-A--DOT--ORG.