

171 WORDS, 60 SECONDS

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

Years of helping his fellow blinded veterans paid off recently FOR ONE DEDICATED VOLUNTEER, IN THE FORM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS'S NATIONAL MALE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD. JAMES HOGAN HAS LOGGED NEARLY THREE THOUSAND HOURS OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE THROUGH THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION. That organization helps blinded veterans and their families by PROVIDING SERVICE PROGRAMS, REGIONAL GROUPS, RESOURCES AND ADVOCACY. THERE'S NO CHARGE FOR ANY OF IT AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO GET HELP. ALL LEGALLY BLINDED VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE WHETHER THEY BECOME BLIND DURING OR AFTER ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY SERVICE. THE VOLUNTEERS DEMONSTRATE EQUIPMENT AND AIDS USED BY THE BLIND, PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, AND ENCOURAGE BLINDED VETERANS TO USE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL HELP THEM BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENT. THE VETERAN'S FAMILY MEMBERS OFTEN VOLUNTEER, TOO. AND, IN HOGAN'S CASE, SO DOES HIS GUIDE DOG, ATTICUS, WHO SERVES AS A THERAPY DOG FOR VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL PATIENTS. LEARN MORE AT B-V-A--DOT--ORG OR (800) 6-6-9--7-0-7-9.