



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Alert

Volunteers of America of Illinois honors Veterans and recognizes honorees at 8th Annual Veterans Leadership Luncheon

WHAT: 8th Annual Veterans Leadership Luncheon
An event that highlights the unique challenges facing Veterans and honors the exceptional leadership of individuals who are standing up for Veterans

WHERE: Renaissance Blackstone Chicago

WHEN: Monday, November 7, 2016
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

On **Monday, November 7, 2016**, Volunteers of America of Illinois (VOA of IL) will be hosting its **8th Annual Veterans Leadership Luncheon** at the **Renaissance Blackstone Hotel in Chicago**. This event is both a celebration of the incredible sacrifices our Veterans made to protect our freedom and a time to reflect on the challenges they endure for many years as a result of that sacrifice.

Keynote Speaker: COL. Danny McKnight, USA, Retired

COL. Danny McKnight retired in January 2002 after serving 28 ½ years in a distinguished and highly decorated career as a U.S. Army Ranger. COL McKnight's final assignment was as the Chief of Staff for First Army, based at Fort Gillem, Georgia. His efforts as the Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment elements assigned to Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia were chronicled in the book and movie, *Black Hawk Down*.

Honorees include:

Profile in Leadership: The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services: Commissioner Lisa Morrison Butler and Director of Homeless Prevention, Policy and Planning, Maura McCauley
Lifetime Service Award: Major General James Mukoyama, USA, Retired
Individual Silver Star Award: Tom Scott, CA Ventures
Corporate Silver Star Award: Debbie Burkart, National Equity Fund

Volunteers of America of Illinois serves more than **500 Veteran households** every year who are struggling, in crisis or at-risk of serious instability. Volunteers of America of Illinois developed and manages Veterans housing developments: Hope Manor I and Hope Manor II in Chicago. Volunteers of America of Illinois is in the construction phase of Hope Manor Joliet, which will house 67 Veteran-headed households in Joliet, Illinois. Our annual Veterans Leadership Luncheon not only allows us to raise awareness about the challenges the Veterans we serve face, but also provides an opportunity for us to generate resources to more effectively meet their needs like housing stability, case management, and supportive services.

**Media wishing to cover & attend the event should contact Liliana Scales at 312-564-2332 or lscales@voail.org.

About Volunteers of America of Illinois: Volunteers of America of Illinois is dedicated to helping people of all ages create positive and lasting change in their lives through programs that support, empower and transform. This tradition calls us to seek out and restore hope to those who have been forgotten or left behind. We re-build shattered families and broken communities by bringing real solutions to the most vulnerable populations in Illinois – including veterans in crises, the elderly and children in foster care. Bringing real solutions means creating positive and lasting change to more than 1,000 people each year.

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