

7TH ANNUAL

VETERANS LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON • November 10, 2015

An important event hosted by Volunteers of America of Illinois that highlights the unique challenges facing our nation's Veterans and honors the exceptional leadership of several individuals who are standing up for Veterans.

ABOUT THE EVENT

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

11:20 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Renaissance Blackstone Chicago

636 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL

Valet and self-parking are available.

The Veterans Leadership Luncheon is an opportunity to honor the extraordinary sacrifice and bravery of our nation's Veterans while celebrating the remarkable contributions of local individuals who have shown tremendous leadership in supporting Veterans over the past year.

This year's honorees include:

- Robert O'Dekirk, Mayor of Joliet
- Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Research Professor and Director, Soul Repair Center
- HSBC

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE

Many of our nation's Veterans are struggling:

- Illinois is home to almost 800,000 Veterans
- More than 1,000 Veterans are homeless on any given night in Chicago and many more are homeless at some point during the year
- More than 60,000 Veterans are homeless each night across the U.S.
- Female Veterans are four times more likely to be homeless than non-Veteran females
- 1 in 4 Veterans suffers from PTSD
- 22 Veterans commit suicide each day

During the Veterans Leadership Luncheon, you will learn more about the specific challenges and struggles Veterans we serve are facing as they transition back to civilian life, and about those who experienced tremendous crisis and instability in their life before finding a path to long-term stability and healing.

Your participation in the event will also encourage other business, political and community leaders to support Veterans through their policies and allocation of resources.

ABOUT VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA OF ILLINOIS

For more than 100 years, we have been partnering with the people we serve to create transformational and lasting change in their lives. As an industry leader in bringing real solutions to Veterans who are struggling or in crisis, VOA of IL:

- Built the first large-scale, campus-style, permanent supportive housing development in the country designed specifically for Veterans with families
- Developed the first gender-specific, trauma-focused support program in the State for female Veterans
- Created a place for more than 150 Veterans to call "home" each year through our Hope Manor I and Hope Manor II housing developments
- Prevented more than 500 Veteran-headed households from becoming homeless in the past year
- Moved more than 600 Veterans to higher levels of stability and self-sufficiency

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

- **BE AN EVENT SPONSOR**
Your sponsorship will not only directly support VOA of IL's programs for Veterans, it will also be publicized to an entire community of Veterans, civic leaders, politicians, businesses and individuals who care about Veterans. Opportunities range from \$1,500 to \$20,000. Contact Liliana Scales at 312-564-2332 or lscales@voail.org for more information about sponsorship opportunities.
- **MAKE A DONATION**
Any donation made through/to the event will go directly to support programs for Veterans right here in the Chicagoland area. Any donations made prior to the event will appear in the commemorative program. Please visit www.voaindinois.org to make a donation today.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Luke Murphy

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Staff Sergeant Luke Murphy, U.S. Army (Retired) enlisted in the Army as an Infantryman. Shortly before completing this second tour in Iraq, he was catastrophically wounded by an IED which resulted in the loss of his right leg above the knee. Luke was awarded several commendations including the coveted Purple Heart. He spent his last year as an active duty soldier at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Luke has undergone 32 surgeries and extensive physical therapy since being wounded in 2006 and was medically retired after 7-1/2 years of service. As part of his rehabilitation, he began competing in marathons, traveling across the globe with the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans. After his injury, Luke returned to college, graduating from Florida State University in 2011. He has spoken to Fortune 500 companies, thousands at the Pentagon and given college and university commencement addresses. His memoir, "Blasted by Adversity: the Making of a Wounded Warrior" was published Memorial Day 2015.



ILLINOIS