Empowerment and Recovery
OEF/OIF Veterans

David Carlson
Veteran Services Navigator
MHISSION-VT Jail Diversion/Trauma Recovery Program
Differing Perspectives

Wall Street Gala for Homeless Veterans

• Kid Rock and a Staged Presence

• A Cheering Crowd

• Pity vs. Respect?

• “Starkly Contrasting Impressions”

The Price of Praise

- Paying for Starbucks
- A Sensitive Topic
- How to Strike a Balance
Beneath the Surface

- Generational Differences in the Military
  - WWII, Vietnam, and After
- Media Hype
  - Atrocities
  - Achievements

www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/6026/the-%E2%80%9Cdangerous%E2%80%9D-veteran-an-inaccurate-media-narrative-takes-hold/
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VmUulPab4M
Overcoming Barriers

Supportive Strategies

• Counter Negative Stereotypes
  • Be Real
  • Share Selected Experiences (Within your comfort zone)

• In the Workplace or School Environment
  • Emphasize Positive Experiences / Skills
  • “Transform” Perceived Weaknesses into Strengths