

VA



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Media Advisory

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“Desert Storm at 30: Continuing to Serve”

Veterans will talk about their experiences during Operation Desert Storm 30 years ago and their ongoing work to help Veterans during an online panel discussion later this month.

The event begins at noon Thursday, Jan. 21. It will be accessible to the public via Zoom. To take part, click here or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com> and search for “Desert Storm at 30.”

The anniversary of the beginning Operation Desert Storm -- Jan. 17, 1991 – comes just one day before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Rather than just a remembrance of the war to free Kuwait from Iraq, the panel discussion will use King’s statement -- “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?” -- to look at how Veterans from the Gulf War have continued their service to others 30 years later.

In particular, the panel will discuss how some Veterans, once they leave the military, find it difficult to transition to civilian life and to find the same sense of mission they had while in the military. This “lost” feeling can sometimes lead to tragic outcomes, including homelessness, family strife, job insecurity and suicide.

The panelists:

- James M. Cocroft, Assistant Director, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Military and Veterans Resource Center; U.S. Navy veteran, 1987-2007
- Jim McLain, Deputy Medical Center Director, Milwaukee VA Medical Center; U.S. Army veteran, 1987-2007
- Michael Koszuta, Command Sergeant Major (ret.), U.S. Army; member of War Memorial Center Board; chairman of Operation 30:30 Committee; U.S. Coast Guard veteran of Desert Storm

The moderator will be Dan Buttery, President and CEO of the War Memorial Center in Milwaukee and a U.S. Army veteran.

The event is sponsored by the Southeastern Wisconsin Task Force on Veteran Suicide Prevention in conjunction with the Milwaukee VA Medical Center, the War Memorial Center and the Operation 30:20 Committee.

For more information about the panel discussion, contact Buttery at 414-273-5533 or email dbuttery@warmemorialcenter.org.

If you’re a Veteran struggling with thoughts of suicide, or know a Veteran who is struggling, go to BeThereWis.com to get help.