

Support our Veterans in Times of Peace and War

Glen McDaniel

As members of society, we should support our veterans in times of war and in times of peace. We can help by paying our taxes. We can encourage our leaders to pass laws that provide for the needs of veterans. We should be willing to do with less, so that the veterans can have what they need.



Glenn Daniel has lived in Greenwood, AR, for all of his adult life. He and his wonderful wife of 45 years have three children and eight grandchildren. He worked at Riverside Furniture for 29 years until the company recently shut down. He is now a student at the Adult Education Center at Fort Smith, AR, where he takes computer and language arts classes. He is grateful for the opportunity to participate in writing for The Change Agent, and he is thankful to his teacher, Ms. Newhart, for her encouragement and support.

Improve the Medical Benefits for Our Veterans

Shirley Smith

In my home state of Arkansas, there are only two veteran hospitals. One is in Fayetteville and the other one is in Little Rock. If a veteran has an emergency and can't get to one of these hospitals, then he or she has to pay out of pocket for the emergency room visit.

For example, my pastor was stung by bees this summer and had a severe allergic reaction. He lived too far away and couldn't make it to a Veterans' Administration (VA) hospital. He had to go to a local hospital, and so he was responsible for the bill. The clinics he goes to are constantly changing doctors, and they have to rely on computers to know his health problems. He has no consistent doctor, no ongoing relationship with a doctor, and no one is tracking his medical history.

All our veterans deserve respect and honor from our government and from all citizens. Instead, they are just kicked to the curb like an old cur dog. Veterans are rare individuals who have lived and died for our land. Honor and respect our veterans every chance you get. They all deserve it.



Shirley Smith has lived in Fort Smith, AR, all her life. She is married and has one son. She worked at Southern Steel and Wire Co. for 20 years until she was laid off in April 2009. She is currently attending Fort Smith Adult Education Center. She is trying to get her GED so she can find a better job. She would like to thank her language teacher, Ms. Sandra Newhart, for all the encouragement.