



Dear Legion Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Bill Zornow and I am the Commander of the American Legion Post 514 in Ida, Michigan, and the Vice-Director of the Legion Riders of Post 514.

I have an idea! To honor the 100th anniversary of the American Legion, I would like for us to support an organization that has proven itself to support our own. Our brothers and sisters on the streets are the most neglected among us, and they truly need our help. So I propose a grass roots effort to honor our Legion's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by each Post housing one veteran.

Veterans Matter is an organization that houses homeless veterans in partnership with the VA's homeless program nationwide. Created in Toledo to house 35 local veterans, at the urging Dusty Hill of ZZ Top they expanded to Texas, then Indiana, Michigan and are now housing veterans in 18 states. To date, they have housed over 2000 of our own nationwide. Because they have an 8% admin rate, most of the money actually goes to help our brothers and sisters. And every dollar they deploy results in another veteran getting housed. This gives Veterans Matter a 100% success rate housing veterans in a VA LONG TERM housing program that has a documented 90% success rate keeping them housed.

I came up with this idea accidently and proposed it at our Post Meeting. Our Riders, Auxiliary, Sons, and Clubroom Committee along with the Post, each stepped up and said they wanted to house a veteran too. We raised \$5000 in five minutes.

I know all Posts vary in size and resources, but I would like to propose an idea we call the American Legion's "**1 for 100 Campaign**" – 1 Veteran housed in honor of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Veteran to Veteran – let's end homelessness amongst our own. If every American Legion Post in the country raises just \$1,000 between now and March 2019, we could ensure that every homeless veteran in our nation finds their home.

Those Posts in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana that have been presented this idea have stood up from the beginning and truly want to see it grow. To date 422 Ohio vets, 394 Michigan vets, and 218 Indiana vets have been housed by Veterans Matter. Money raised in each state goes to housing Veterans in that state first. I hope all of you will stand up with me for those still on the streets.

Our very own Preamble of our Constitution dictates to us "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." Housing our own and starting the next century of American Legion with homes for all our brother, sisters, and their families is a Legacy to be cherished! Who is with me?

Bill Zornow

Commander, American Legion Post 514  
Veterans Matter American Legion Liaison