



## How to connect with a Service member or Veteran

### Recommended greeting:

“Thank you for your service and sacrifice. I appreciate what you and your family have done for us.”

### Ask “get to know you” questions like:

Lead with small talk. Let in-depth discussions about experiences evolve naturally.

- Did you serve in the military? Which branch?
- What did you do in the military?
- What did you like most about serving in the military?
- Why did you join?
- How long did you serve?
- What were some of the places you were stationed? What was your favorite? Why did you like it so much?
- Did you deploy overseas?
- How is your acclimation to civilian life coming along?
- How can I help you get to know our community?
- Is there anything I can do to help welcome you home? Ideas include:
  - Invite him/her to go with you to:
    - Groups/clubs you belong to
    - Community events
    - Volunteer service projects
    - Your place of worship
  - Invite him/her for coffee to get to know them, with a focus on active listening and identifying ways to connect them to the community.

**\*\*\* DO NOT ask if they have shot or killed anyone.**

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