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**NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS CARE ABOUT VETERANS
READ THESE TIPS FOR GIVING TO VETERANS CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS**

Attorney General Joseph Foster issues these practical guidelines for New Hampshire residents who want to make donations to help our veterans:

- Do your research. You will read in the newspaper or see something on the internet or watch something on television about a charitable organization that supports our veterans or our troops overseas. Go on the computer and find that organization's website and read about its plans and its track record in helping our troops or our veterans. Does it describe the specifics of what it does? Does it operate in New Hampshire? How much of your donation will go to help veterans?
- How much of my donation will go to help veterans? That is often a tough question to answer. Some charitable organizations eat up almost all of their money in fundraising expenses or management salaries. Generally, donors want to see that that the organization uses a good amount of its revenue toward providing program services.
- Many people are seeking donations for veterans causes using Facebook and Twitter. Some link to crowdfunding websites. Making donations this way may be quick and easy, but you may not know exactly where the money is going, and what good it is going to do. And just because someone has recommended an organization online does not mean you do not have to do your own research.
- Online donation sites should use encryption technology that ensures security for data transmission. Before entering sensitive information (i.e. credit card number, personal identification data, etc), verify that the site requesting this information is secure.
- There are websites that can provide you with information about larger organizations that work with veterans. Consider looking up an organization on Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org), GuideStar (guidestar.org) or even the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance (www.give.org).
- Organizations that solicit charitable contributions in New Hampshire are required to register as charities with the Charitable Trusts Unit. Call 271-3591 or go on the CTU website to check out this organization. Again, do your research.
- Beware of lookalike and soundalike charities. Many organizations use words like "veterans" or "warriors" or "heroes" or "Vietnam".

- If someone calls you over the telephone to make a contribution for a veterans organization, think twice. Do you know the person? Do you recognize the name of the charity? Are they registered in New Hampshire? Take the time to do your research. Ask the caller for the organization's web site address, or ask that they send you materials in the mail. No cause is so urgent that you can't take the time to check it out.
- Did you know that professional solicitors (i.e. people who get paid to make phone calls for charities) must be registered with the Charitable Trusts Unit? Call 271-3591 or go on the CTU website to check out the solicitor's organization.
- And remember, never give out personal information over the telephone, including credit card and bank account numbers, to someone you do not know.
- Think local. There are a number of groups with a good track record working with veterans in New Hampshire. Ask a veteran who may have taken advantage of its services. Again, do your research.
- If someone is selling merchandise with a promise that "100% of the proceeds" will go to a veterans organization, it does not mean your entire purchase price will get directed there. Contact that organization. It should be able to tell you how much it gets from each sale, and it might not be much.
- If you are concerned that your donation be tax deductible, then you need to ask a further question. Has the charitable organization received "501(c)(3)" status with the Internal Revenue Service? Many veterans organizations do good work, but they have chosen not to get 501(c)(3) status. And donations made to help an individual or a family are not tax deductible. Just remember that before you donate.

Finally, Attorney General Joseph Foster announces that the Charitable Trusts Unit of the Department of Justice is available to answer questions regarding charitable giving to veterans organizations or regarding any calls you receive requesting donations for charitable purposes. Call 271-3591, or e-mail us at charitabletrusts2@doj.nh.gov or click on our web page at: www.doj.nh.gov/charitable-trusts

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