

Continuing the “Service”

Many transitioning from active duty find that there is a void within. Something is missing that can't be identified. For how many years we served our country. We had a mission to fulfill. That became an identity, a purpose. All of a sudden, even if planned, was lifted when we took off the uniform.

Some focus on family. Others focus on finding employment. All super! However, some don't feel that that is enough. I have an option for you. This can be either full-time or part-time or even occasionally. For as many hours as you want. It means giving to your new community while also filling that void.

In previous articles in both the president's column and in those written for this transition column, I've talked about volunteering. You're asking about why I now would include this in a column about transitioning. It's really quite simple.

I talk about finding your passion. One way to investigate is by volunteering with an organization such as a nonprofit that can utilize your skills while you get to know the community. You'll meet new friends and possibly employment contacts. In essence, you are building your network and establishing community connections.

You will also be exploring how your skills translate into civilian speak. You could also pick up skills that enhance your resume. This can be done all the while you are testing the marketplace for direction in your job search. AND, you will be helping your new community.

Without hopefully being too simplistic about it, volunteering gives an opportunity to meet new people and explore your community while having fun. You'll feel the value of giving. The reward is intrinsic and can also lead to the extrinsic – a new job! Best of luck and happy holidays.

Kitty

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