

Statement by General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret)

I am very proud of the way communities across America are welcoming and supporting our returning veterans and their families. These men and women have very special needs as they return to their daily lives from the stress of military service. The *Joining Forces* initiative, led by Minnesota's HealthPartners, the American Hospital Association and dozens of other national and statewide organizations, will educate millions of people in health care and in the wider community about the experiences of veterans and their families and how to help and support them.

The Veterans Health Administration delivers health care and many other vital services that are second-to-none for our veterans. But when veterans return to their hometowns to live and work, they may not have access to those services and will turn to local doctors, hospitals, counselors, clergy, community groups and family members. *Joining Forces* is a series of four half-hour television programs designed to raise awareness of the unseen injuries such as depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the methods to care for these patients and their families. The voices in these heartfelt programs are those of veterans and their physicians, nurses, chaplains and others. All four segments are available for viewing at no charge at www.JoiningForcesonline.org

If you are a healthcare professional, a counselor, clergy, teacher, social worker, are in the human services professions or know someone who has served in the military overseas, *Joining Forces* will help you make a difference in the lives of those who have given us so much – our veterans. So please, log on and watch ... and tell others. Thank you for your support of our troops.

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