

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALING THE MORAL INJURY OF WAR:
BRIDGING VETERAN SPIRITUAL DISCONNECTION
CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 19, 2013 9 AM – 3 PM
RICHARD ROUDEBUSH VAMC AUDITORIUM
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

A coalition of faith organizations, educators, friends of veterans and businesses concerned about supporting US military, veterans and their families in central Indiana invite you to participate in a, **“Healing Moral Injury of War: Bridging Veteran Spiritual Disconnections” conference, 9 – 3 PM Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the Richard Roudebush VAMC Auditorium.** It is a conference addressing a unique spiritual malaise that impacts the very core of existence for some service members during and/or after his/her military experience.

The Department of Defense encourages communities to support returning military members and families by encouraging prevention and early intervention programs, offering programs that consider military culture and stressors for military families as well as programs to inform and educate on suicide education. Faith communities, health care providers, mental health providers, educators and friends of veterans are urged to attend this nationally framed conversation addressing an invisible wound of war. Some fear this ‘hole in the soul’ experience is so profound it has led to depression, suicidal ideation and mental distress and it impacts the transition from combat to civilian life.

Dr. Jeanette Irene Harris, a pioneer in researching spirituality and veterans in the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the keynote speaker’s address is *“Starting the Conversation: Talking about Spirituality with Combat Veterans”* While registration is free and the conference is open to the public, we invite organizations to send representatives to attend this timely discussion. Donations will be used to develop and share the curriculum for professional development opportunities.

Sister Soldier Network is an organization that celebrates the experiences and honors service to country of all women and enhances the visibility and viability of black women who served. The Sister Soldier Network identifies and records the service of Veterans, offer informational sessions about and for all women veterans and collaborates with faith based community organizations to build bridges that mobilize, engage and support the health and well-being of military families and veterans.

Reservations are encouraged and can be made by contacting the founder of Sister Soldier Network Dr. Dorothy Simpson-Taylor at (317) 721-9802 or sistersoldiernetwork@gmail.com. Information about the organization at: www.sistersoldiernetwork.com