



## 99% of congressional staffers have never served in the military

Task & Purpose

A recent survey from HillVets, a bipartisan veterans group based in Washington, D.C., found that roughly 1% of staff members serving in congressional offices are veterans. In contrast, roughly 60% of annual discretionary spending is related to veterans and the military. Veterans make up a small percentage of congressional staff, which means their unique experience and perspective is often missing on Capitol Hill.

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## Obama admin marks 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'VOW to Hire Heroes Act'

Department of Defense

Five years ago, President Barack Obama signed into law the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, which brought about major changes to help transitioning service members acquire the training and skills they need to seamlessly integrate into the civilian economy. [READ MORE](#)

## Michelle Obama's signature military initiative faces uncertain future under Donald Trump

Military Times

Joining Forces officials this week will celebrate five years of work highlighting veterans and military families, but they'll also be wondering what the next few months will mean for the future of the effort. The most tangible results have been in employment. Over the last five years, Joining Forces has received more than 1.25 million hiring commitments for veterans and military spouses from its corporate partners.

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## Military families prepare for frugal Thanksgiving

Yahoo Finance

America's career military families are continuing their everyday frugality into this year's holiday spending season with plans for a cost-conscious Thanksgiving celebration. The annual Thanksgiving spending survey through the First Command Financial Behaviors Index® reveals that 76 percent of middle-class military families (senior NCOs and commissioned officers in pay grades E-5 and above with household incomes of at least \$50,000) say their Thanksgiving plans will change as a result of the current economic situation. [READ MORE](#)

## Thanksgiving military traditions

Military Benefits

Major holidays such as Thanksgiving often present a challenge for military personnel who can be stationed far from home and their families on the holidays. For many people in the military community they will celebrate Thanksgiving in a different manner every year. Traditionally, senior leaders will serve dinner to junior personnel on Thanksgiving, when possible. Newly enlisted soldiers will be away from home for the first time and military spouses and children will be stateside with a loved one deployed.

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