

Be a Hero, Honor a Hero!

Our goal is to eliminate pain and infection and restore the war veterans to a healthy and functional dental state where then, it is realistic for them to maintain this state of dental health.

Who we serve: Veterans who comply with all first three items below,
1.) have been deployed to wars/conflict areas.
2.) have no dental insurance.
3.) have significant financial challenges.
4.) and their spouses.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2WWwlaSGG0>

Where: In the comfort of our office.

What: General dentistry procedures as you see fit. Specialists sign up too, but please encourage your favorite specialists and labs to partner with you in honoring our war veterans!

When: Accommodate in your schedule at your convenience.

Why: 1.) We have a volunteer military now. Less than 1% of our population is taking up this responsibility. For those veterans who lack family and/or economic support, they are more likely to be low-income and struggling.

2.) There is a significant amount of PTSD (Post traumatic stress disorder) due to the multiple deployments, and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injuries) as our equipment is protective where many did not die but suffered significant brain damage.

3.) Suicide is rampant For some veterans, trying to adjust back to a normal life can be a tougher battle than being at the war. There are 22 veteran suicides everyday in this country.

4.) Providing dental care, building trust and showing we care is a very tangible and honorable way of saying, “Thank you for your service!” This free dentistry that you and your staff provide is more therapeutic than you can imagine!

- How:**
- 1.) Establish dental health: We emphasize treatment to be comprehensive, to break the cycle of continually putting out fires. It doesn't have to be Cadillac treatment, e.g. if some extractions were done, a partial denture would be important to prevent tipping and provide adequate function. Some dentists have done bridges or implants and those, of course, are welcomed.
 - 2.) Establish a dental home for the veterans: We emphasize these veterans continue to be regular paying patients in the future. The veterans are encouraged to save and plan to pay for future maintenance and care, with the normal doctor/patient relationship. For the recent veterans who are going to school, I encourage the dentist to possibly provide a free cleaning a year while they are attending school.

Obligation of the veterans so that the free dental care can be sustainable:

- 1.) Maintain good oral hygiene.
- 2.) Be on time for appointments.
- 3.) Save up and plan to pay for subsequent cleanings and dental care.

If every dentist helps one veteran patient a year, we can improve the lives of thousands of veterans and their families. Our veterans need us!

Be a Hero - honor a Hero!