

Rep. Gary Hebl: Our actions are how we honor America's veterans

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Veterans Day provides an opportunity for Americans to express our gratitude and to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, defending our country at home and abroad. To the American men and women in uniform, let me say thank you.

However, actions speak louder than words. We honor veterans by providing them and their families with the necessary programs and assistance to help them transition back to civilian life. We have too many veterans who do not have access to proper support services, leaving them unemployed or even homeless. For the richest country in the world, this is unacceptable. We must do more for people who voluntarily put their lives on the line for our country. They make sacrifices for their country; their country should make sacrifices for them.

When our women and men return from their service, they deserve to have the ability to find the assistance and support they deserve. I am proud to have worked with veterans' organizations, constituents, and my legislative colleagues to strive to ensure that we provide sufficient

psychological, emotional, and financial resources to our veterans. For example. I have worked on legislation to increase the number of veterans who would qualify for additional retirement credits under the Wisconsin Retirement System.

We needn't only offer help through legislation. There are numerous volunteer organizations that everyday citizens can sign up for to assist veterans in need. I encourage everyone to take an active approach and to find opportunities to volunteer for organizations serving veterans. Please visit volunteermatch.com to find various ways you can help. Finding a more active way to express our gratitude is something for which we should all strive.