



Calling On You, Hello!

How many times have you received a solicitation call from someone offering a “car warranty”, “pay off a student loan”, or “a low interest rate credit card”? Oh, let me count the many times... None of us like to receive those calls and definitely don’t like to make them.

When I volunteered to make “cold calls” for AVV to encourage Veterans to vote, I did not squirm at the thought of making “cold calls”, but instead wanted to ensure that I had something of value to offer. I have over 20 years of recruiting experience—much of it on the phone—and owe much of my success to providing a service that has a positive impact on people’s lives.

If you listen to Country or folk music, you probably have heard of the late John Prine. In 1971, he wrote a moving and powerful song called “Hello In There”. The chorus says:

*“You know that old trees just grow stronger
And old rivers grow wilder every day
Old people just grow lonesome
Waiting for someone to say, “Hello in there, hello”.*

WOW! That song truly tells the story of my experience. In the past two weeks, I have talked with many older, forgotten Veterans, both men and women. A common theme is that they are so appreciative of being remembered for their service and reminded of their importance in the political process. Talking with them sparks a sense of “hope in their voice”, and “yes”, for the moment makes them remember that they are still valuable to society, and that we still care for them!

I remember years ago, at the end of a school or work day, we would sit outside on the porch or a local park and talk with neighbors, friends and even strangers. We were “community”. For many today, that feeling of connection may be lost, but I believe we have a unique opportunity to reconnect with Veterans who may have withdrawn and do not feel part of the community. We can help them learn about the issues and get out the vote.

Are you one of those Veterans who is willing to “call on” and be an “encourager” to so many Veterans who have been forgotten? American Veterans Vote can be a “launching pad” for so many events to activate a group of folks that may have been dormant and are still needed to help bring positive change to Virginia and America! AVV is a launch pad for that Unity.

While this election is almost over, you can still connect to forgotten Veterans. I am calling on you—fellow Veterans—to volunteer and make calls to “get out the vote” for the upcoming elections. I’m confident your experience will be like mine. It is very rewarding to engage with Veterans, educating them about the issues, and helping them understand their importance in this critical time. Some of them are just waiting for us to call and say “hello”.

Listen to “Hello In There” by John Prine: <https://tinyurl.com/2j8ntsuh>

Send questions or comments to info@americanveteransvote.com.