

The Military Sisterhood Initiative Winter Membership Drive

During this unparalleled year of challenges and trials, the Military Sisterhood Initiative (MSI) has proved indispensable to many women Veterans and servicewomen seeking connection and support through these isolating times. For this reason, MSI's parent organization, Challenge America, is pleased to announce its winter membership drive. They are asking for your help to connect an additional 10,000 women Veterans to their inclusive and supportive community. Their community includes women Veterans from all eras of service, who share a safe and welcome space that fosters friendship, sisterhood, and resource sharing. Moreover, they have announced exciting new offerings and happenings on MSI designed to combat social isolation by encouraging women to share their experiences and discover new resources.

"The Military Sisterhood Initiative allows us to see the best of who we are in the eyes of another woman. Helps us to share the good and bad of our journey. Having a bond with individuals who will always support you no matter what."

- MSI Sister

About MSI

The women of the armed forces, both past and present, have played vitally important roles and should be honored and recognized for their service. Women Veterans make up 10 percent of all U.S. Veterans, yet they are often overlooked. The VA and other service providers now offer many great programs to women Veterans. However, in terms of combating social isolation and connecting military women nationwide, there is still a gap that MSI is endeavoring to fill. At its core, MSI honors military women, who they are, and their struggles.

"MSI is unlike any other online social community in that it's a truly positive, supportive environment where sister Veterans are lifting up and encouraging one another. It creates a sense of security and willingness to reach out for help and understanding," says Maggie Tolan, Program Director at Challenge America, the Veteran nonprofit heading up MSI. "Women Veterans have unique military experiences that differ in many ways from those of their male counterparts. This is why it's so important to

create safe spaces exclusive to women Veterans that allow them to connect on a different level. It's been incredible to witness the camaraderie and community that MSI has created by virtue of being a safe, uplifting space that women Veterans can call their own."

With over 4,500 MSI members from all 50 states and 18 countries, the community is growing faster than ever and is clearly in high demand, especially due to the current climate of social isolation and loneliness due to COVID-19. Each military woman, whether active duty or Veteran, has the opportunity to join MSI and create friendships with like-minded women that best understand their experiences. MSI has been a lifeline for women Veterans and servicewomen from all walks of life, from every background, ethnicity or race, religion, language, and sexuality.

New Offerings and Happenings

In the MSI community, women Veterans and servicewomen find a variety of tools that facilitate the process of connecting with their sisters. Members can explore their various and shared interests through topics, groups, and events. For example, if they are looking for an interesting event to attend, like Veteran Tai Chi, they can scroll through listed events by date and location. MSI shares events that are run both by Challenge America and by other organizations serving women Veterans. A recent addition to the events calendar is a monthly MSI Hangout on Zoom, allowing sisters to get together to chat and get to know one another in an informal setting.

New topics have also been added to the community, including the Sister Diaries for sisters to share their past life experiences. In addition, sisters can now enjoy one another's art in The Art Studio and pass on their favorite recipes in Cuisine A La Veteran.

Another exciting addition is the MSI Resource Library, an interactive repository of programs and services available to women Veterans. The Resource Library allows members to explore and add information on relevant resources organized by categories, including VA Benefits and Services, Health and Wellness, and

Employment. If you offer a service to women Veterans, please [email us](#) to include your offerings in our Resource Library or Events Calendar.

Membership Drive - Join Today!

Help to spread the inclusive message of MSI to military women far and wide. Share this article link with women Veterans and servicewomen in your network and reach out to lilly@challengeamerica.com with opportunities to share information about MSI.

To join the network and learn more, visit www.militarysisterhoodinitiative.org. The MSI community is open, caring, inclusive, and diverse. No matter your struggles, experiences, or background, you have a community and a sisterhood waiting for you in MSI. Your sisters can't wait to meet you!

"This forum is like no other social media. We are not here to pick a fight, laugh at someone, tear someone apart. It's not a party; it has no party affiliation. It's not a black, white, or blue issue. It's not a young, aging, or old place either. It's a place to feel welcome. A place to get advice or to give gentle encouragement. A place where it doesn't matter if it's the first time here or the 500th time you've been here. But most of all, it's just plain sisterly love."

- MSI Sister