

VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's

Key Influencers Speak Out About VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's (VA2)

“The VFW knows that this is a major issue for veterans – especially when data indicates that the risks associated with military service make veterans more likely to develop Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Through VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's, we have the opportunity to bring together leading voices in the veteran community to promote brain health through action, research, and improved care.”

- **Bob Wallace, Executive Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

“The Department of Research and Development of the Veterans Administration and Veterans Health Administration recognizes and supports the important work of VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's.”

- **Dr. Rachel B. Ramoni, D.M.D., Sc.D, Chief Research and Development Officer**

“Research!America salutes USAgainstAlzheimer's for launching the VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's Network to ensure veterans and their families have crucial support as they seek to improve their quality of life and help advance research into this devastating disease. Many of us who have experienced the anguish of Alzheimer's and related dementias through our loved ones and friends understand the importance of establishing a dedicated network to heighten the level of advocacy and public awareness to make considerable progress in defeating this health threat.

Our nation's veterans who have suffered in service to their country are impacted by Alzheimer's disease at alarming rates and deserve greater support in managing this condition and finding solutions. Stronger investments and veteran participation in clinical research will bring us closer to combatting this disease through innovative research and prevention. VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's represents a national commitment that should be embraced and supported by all those who care about the health of veterans, young and old.”

- **Mary Woolley, President and CEO, Research!America**

“USAgainstAlzheimer's has been an outstanding partner for the research community. Their work with Congress has directly contributed to greatly increased public funding focusing specifically on Alzheimer's disease research. The launch of VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's will provide essential advocacy for research on the long-term challenges specifically facing American veterans.

Research with World War II veterans has shown that service members exposed to brain trauma are at a heightened risk for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. With traumatic brain injury being the signature injury of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, now is the time to tackle this pending healthcare crisis. VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's will provide focus on the long-term challenges specifically facing American veterans.”

Mark P. Burns, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Neuroscience, Georgetown University

"It is heartbreaking when any family has to deal with Alzheimer's, and doubly so for veterans and their families. These heroes amongst us stand proud and tall, confident in the knowledge that they have given their best to their country. When those memories fade and their bodies begin to fail, that loss is devastating to their families. But it is also a loss to the nation when their unique experience and skills are no longer available to their communities. VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's is filling a critical gap in addressing the unique and often cruel impacts of Alzheimer's on the national treasure of our veterans and their families."

- **MG Alan B. Salisbury, USA (Ret.), Chairman and CEO, Code of Support Foundation**

"I applaud the thoughtful and timely leadership of all involved with VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's, and I thank them for endeavoring to increase public awareness of this incredible disease. As a veteran of 35 years of active military service in the United States Marine Corps, I particularly appreciate the attention VA2 is devoting to veterans. I still care about the servicemen and women who served under my leadership and equally, I care about those under whose leadership I served. I want them to live long and productive lives. I want them to participate in brain health and awareness initiatives Veterans Against Alzheimer's will encourage. Our veterans fight and win our nation's wars. Let us all join with them to help fight and win the battle against Alzheimer's."

- **Arnold Fields, Major General, United States Marine Corps (Ret.)**

"Many men and women are under the impression when they join and serve in our nation's military they will be taken care of should the need arise. Unfortunately, much work is still needed to be done to make this a reality. My husband, Jim, retired after 23 years in the Air Force and thought he would be able to get help with his Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease. But we were left to our own devices for non-medical help and assisted living. We must work towards not only a cure, but making sure those who have served and protected us are protected themselves."

- **Karen Garner, caregiver to James B. Garner, Senior Master Sergeant, USAF (Ret.)**

"There is increasing scientific support for the association between a history of traumatic brain injury, including combat-related concussions, and later life neurodegeneration that contributes to Alzheimer's and other dementias. The jointly VA and DoD funded Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium, nation's largest research network (30+ Universities, 15 VA medical center and 7 military treatment facilities) studying the short and long-term effects of combat-associated brain injury, is working with VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's to raise awareness of dementias among service members and Veterans. Together, CENC and VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's are striving to increase Veteran participation in dementia clinical trials as a way of finding the answers to the causes and interventions for neurodegeneration, and ultimately seeking the cure for dementias."

- **David X. Cifu, MD, Associate Dean for Innovation and System Integration; Professor and Chairman, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine; Senior TBI Specialist, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Principal Investigator, VA/DoD Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium**

“Our Service Members put their lives on the line to protect our freedom. Now - it is the nation’s turn to protect lifelong independence of function by giving Veterans’ and their families the brain health attention they deserve. The advocacy of VeteransAgainstAlzheimer’s will provide the platform to inspire communities to deliver solutions.

Active and retired service members put their brain at risk by exposures to extreme conditions such as stress, sleep deprivation, toxic products, traumatic brain injury and PTSD due to physical changes to the brain system. Stigma about the brain keeps them from seeking the help they need causing the problems to worsen over time. Why wouldn’t we get ahead of the growing risk of Alzheimer’s for the increasing number of veterans who served our country? The VeteransAgainstAlzheimer’s Network establishes a proactive network to disseminate the latest discoveries and protocols that deliver regimens to help Veterans protect brain health and rebound from brain losses.”

- **Sandra Bond Chapman, Ph.D, Founder and Chief Director, Center for BrainHealth, Dee Wyly Distinguished University Professor, The University of Texas at Dallas**

“By bringing attention to the critical importance of maintaining brain health, the launch of VeteransAgainstAlzheimer’s will benefit the health of Veterans and their family caregivers.”

- **Corinna Lathan, Ph.D, CEO, AnthroTronix and developer of the DANA Brain Vital**