



**NATIONAL COALITION for HOMELESS VETERANS**

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## **Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award**

Since 2001, the Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award has been presented annually to an individual in recognition of meritorious dedication to the cause of ending veteran homelessness in the United States, and for actions that contribute substantially to advancing that mission nationally.

The Jerald Washington Memorial Founders' Award is the highest honor bestowed by the homeless veteran assistance community. The award honors the memory of Jerald Washington, former organizer of veteran assistance programs in Florida and Tennessee, and a co-founder of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV).

Jerald "Jerry" Washington returned home to Tennessee from the Vietnam War and devoted the remainder of his life to teaching and serving veterans in crisis, especially those who were experiencing difficulty readjusting to civilian life after serving in combat. He taught political science at the University of Tennessee and Sul Ross University in Texas, but he will be remembered most for his work to help homeless veterans.

Washington proudly served as one of NCHV's leaders from the organization's founding in 1990 until he died in 2001 at the age of 57. He established Base Camp Inc., in Nashville, Tenn., and the Veterans Community Leadership Corporation in Jacksonville, Florida. He served as president of Vietnam Veterans of America-Tennessee Chapter, and of the Northeast Florida Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Inc., in Jacksonville.

During his term of service, NCHV grew from 16 community-based organizations to a coalition of hundreds of service providers and federal partners reaching across America. Washington was driven by his unconditional devotion to all of this nation's veterans in need, and remains an inspiration to all who knew and served with him.

Today, NCHV is the technical assistance and communications center of a network of more than 2,100 community- and faith-based organizations and government agencies providing housing, access to health care, employment preparation and placement assistance, and individual and family counseling services to homeless and at-risk veterans and their families.

NCHV is widely recognized as the nation's leading authority on homeless veterans and the programs in place to help them. The organization's imprint can be found on virtually every federal program to help homeless veterans in the nation today.

### ***Selection Process***

Calls for nominations are announced from November through March, and may be submitted by anyone associated with the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. Nominations are reviewed by staff at the Central Office and scored based on the nominee's service record, personal achievements and historical impact on the mission to end veteran homelessness in the United States. Top candidates are referred to the NCHV Board of Directors for final selection at their winter meeting.

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*Mission: The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans will end homelessness among veterans by shaping public policy, promoting collaboration, and building the capacity of service providers.*