

The background of the slide features a pattern of overlapping geometric shapes in light blue, light green, and light orange. A central graphic contains a black rectangular box with white text. The text is arranged in four lines: 'MAKING THE' in a bold, sans-serif font; 'CONNECTION' in a larger, bold, sans-serif font; 'VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS CONFERENCE' in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font; and '2023' in a large, stylized, serif font.

# **MAKING THE CONNECTION VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2023**

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COMMISSION**



# Your Oklahoma Veterans Commission



Rob Allen  
US Army



Sid Ellington  
US Navy



Brett Martin  
US Navy



Kevin Offel  
US Army



Dan Orr  
USMC

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# Sid Ellington Bio

- USN Retired (20 yrs)
- Worked in nonprofit spaces since finishing grad school at OU
  - Primarily Veterans Causes
- Served on Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs Board of Directors before being appointed to the Oklahoma Veterans Commission
- Full-time Faculty, University of Oklahoma College of Arts and Sciences
- Connect with me on LinkedIn:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sidney-t-e-7301b65b/>

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# **The Post 9/11 Generation**

## *Unique in American History*

- All Volunteer Force
- 20 Years of Sustained Combat
- Women in Front Line Combat Roles
- Multiple Combat Tours
- High levels of Difficulty in Transition
- Civil-Military Divide

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# A Changing Cultural Atmosphere within Society

- Increased ideological division
- High-level political discord
- Aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Civil-Military Divide





# Let's Examine the Role of the Post-9/11 Vet in Civic Society?

- Your Veterans Commission believes:
  - That veterans play a valuable civic role in all American communities
  - That institutions can leverage the power of veteran engagement to advance their own projects, programs, and policies
  - That we are witnessing an increasing number of veterans who stand out as civic leaders

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# Let's start with some facts

- More than 18m Americans living today have served in the military
- Most served as a part of the all-volunteer military (prior to 1974)
  - So, you're talking about a sub-population that has a demonstrated disposition toward service

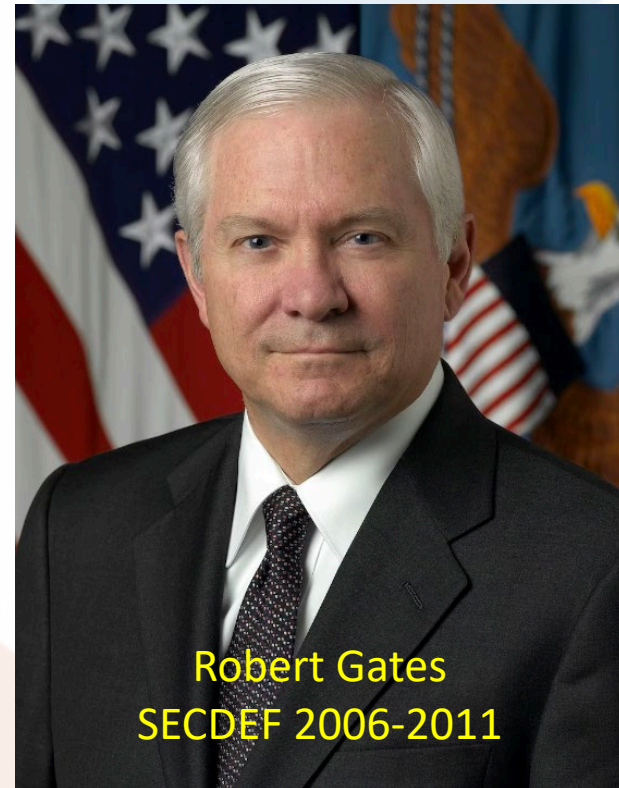
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# Our Nation's Vets

## *Skills and Attributes*

- Disciplined
- Resourceful
- Able to make decisions under stress
- Have technical skills
- Problem solvers
- Team builders
- Highly adaptable
- Hold diverse skills



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# The Current Veterans Commission Believes

- Veterans can, and should, be viewed as assets whose skills and talents must be engaged here at home.
- The civilian population does not always recognize the veteran population as the asset to our communities that they can be.
  - Why?
    - Too much emphasis on the challenges that some veterans face
- General Mad Dog Mattis on the Negative Narrative of our Veterans



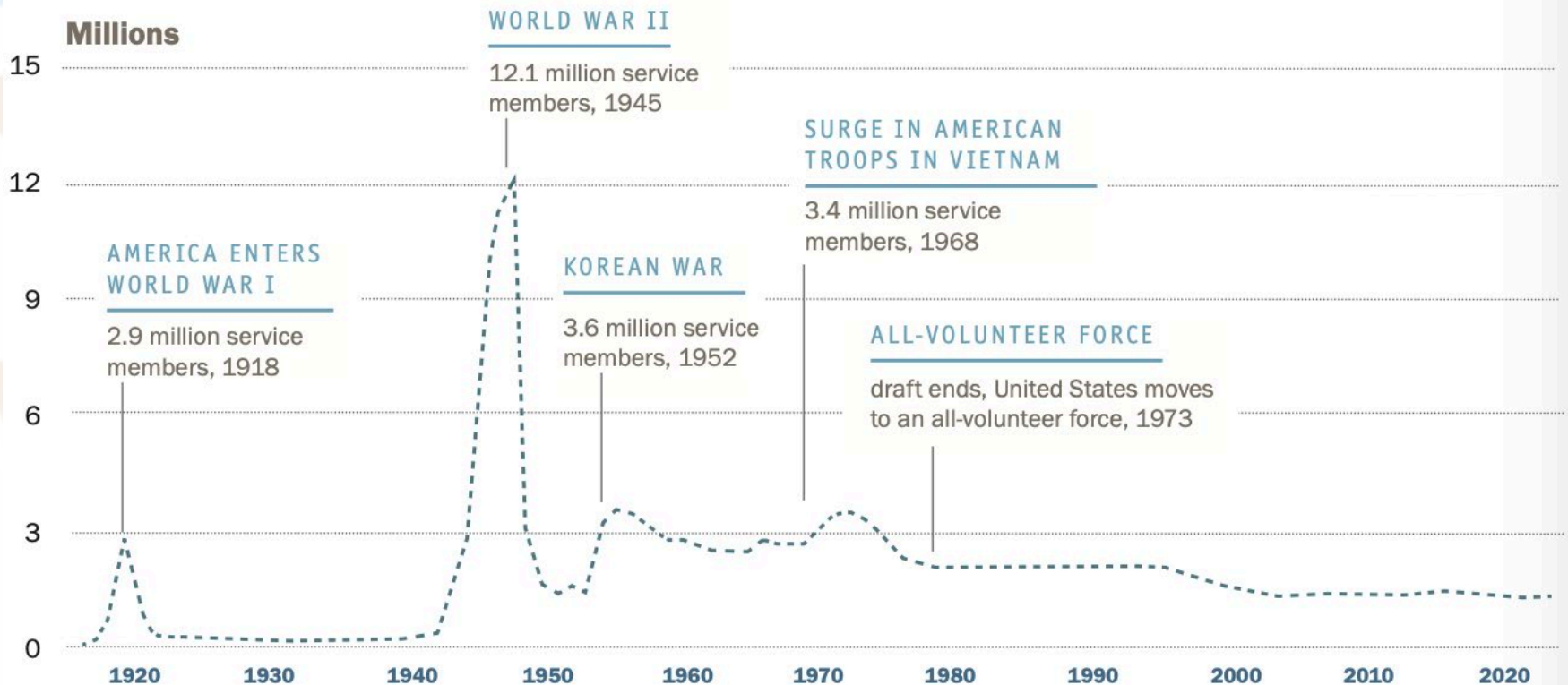
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# An Overview of Today's Veteran Population

## THE SHRINKING VETERAN POPULATION (WORLD WAR I - PRESENT)

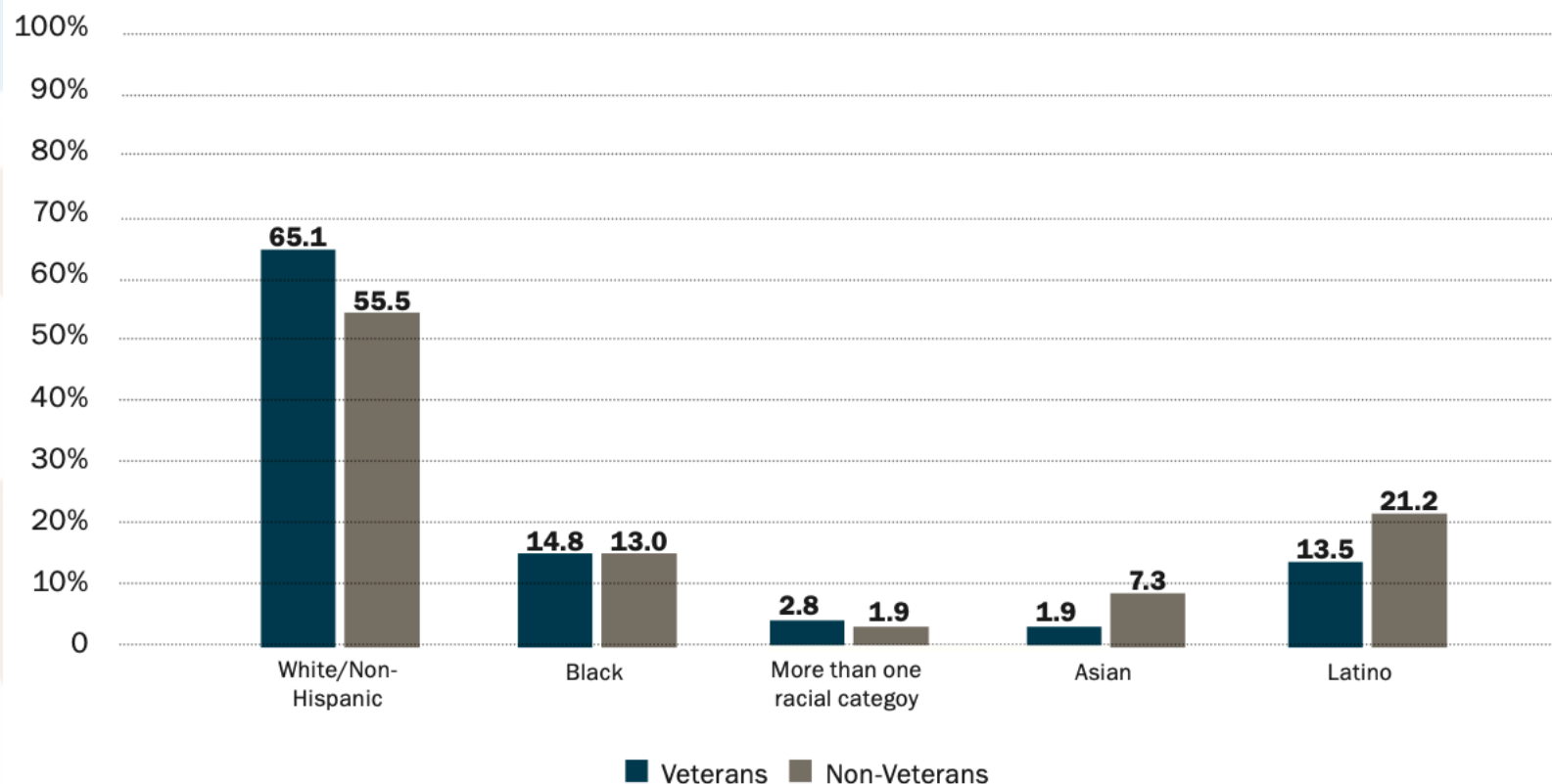
In 1980, there were approximately 28.6 million veterans, compared to 18 million today.





# Veteran Demographics

**Chart 1. Veteran and Non-Veterans Under the Age of 50 by Race/Ethnicity**





# Taking a Generational Perspective

THE AGE OF VETERANS IN AMERICA

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**5.1 MILLION**

VETERANS UNDER 50 YEARS OF AGE

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**5.2 MILLION**

POST 9/11 ERA VETERANS

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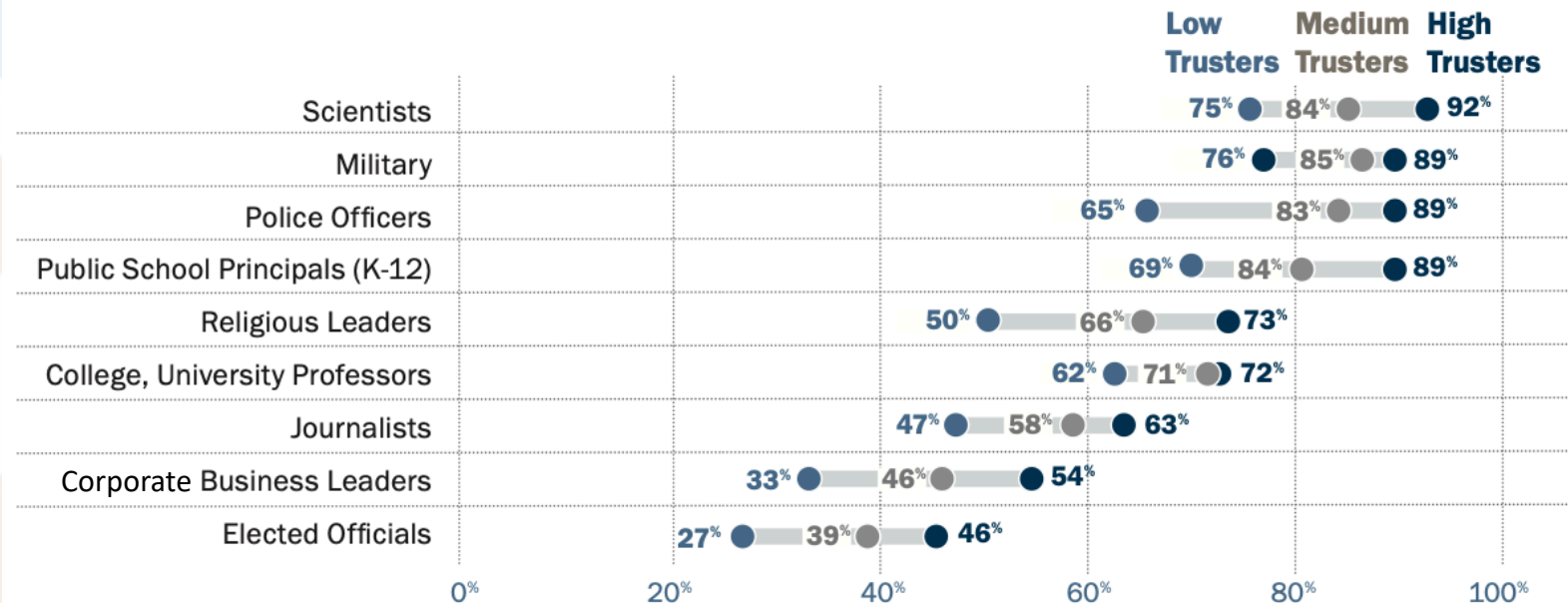
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# Americans Trust its Nation's Veterans

## THOSE WITH HIGH PERSONAL TRUST HAVE HIGHER CONFIDENCE IN LEADERSHIP GROUPS

% of U.S. Adults in each group who have a great deal/fair amount of confidence that \_\_\_\_\_ will act in the best interests of the public.



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# What is Civic Health?

- This term refers to the way that communities are organized to define and address public problems.

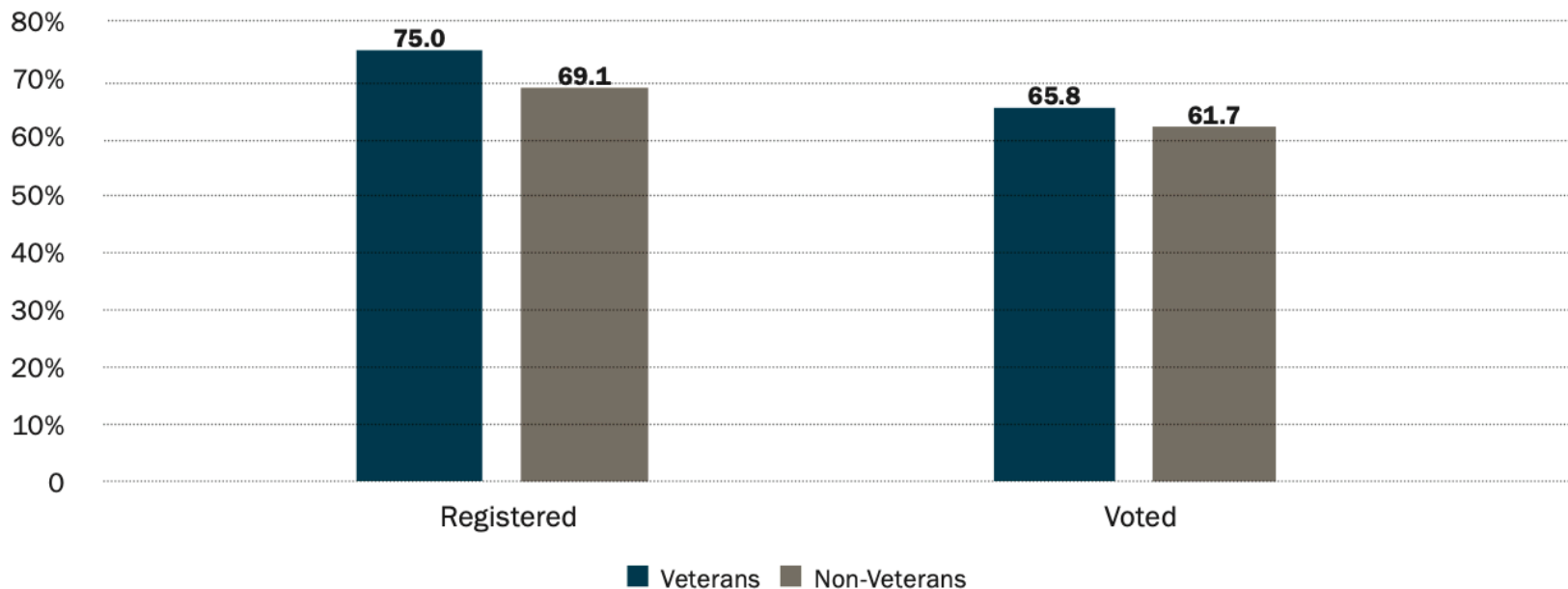


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# Post 9/11 Veteran Voting

**Chart 2. Voting in the 2020 Presidential Election by Veterans and Non-Veterans Under the Age of 50**

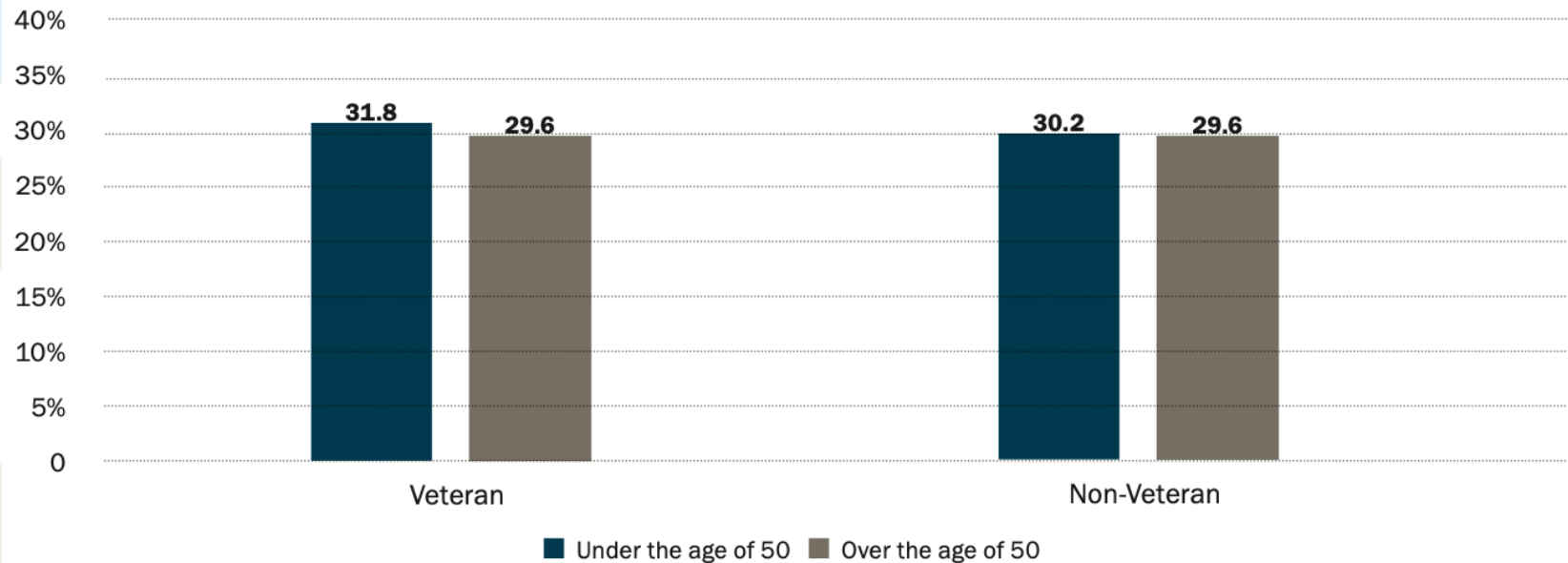


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# Post 9/11 Veteran Volunteering

**Chart 3. Volunteering by Age and Veteran Status**

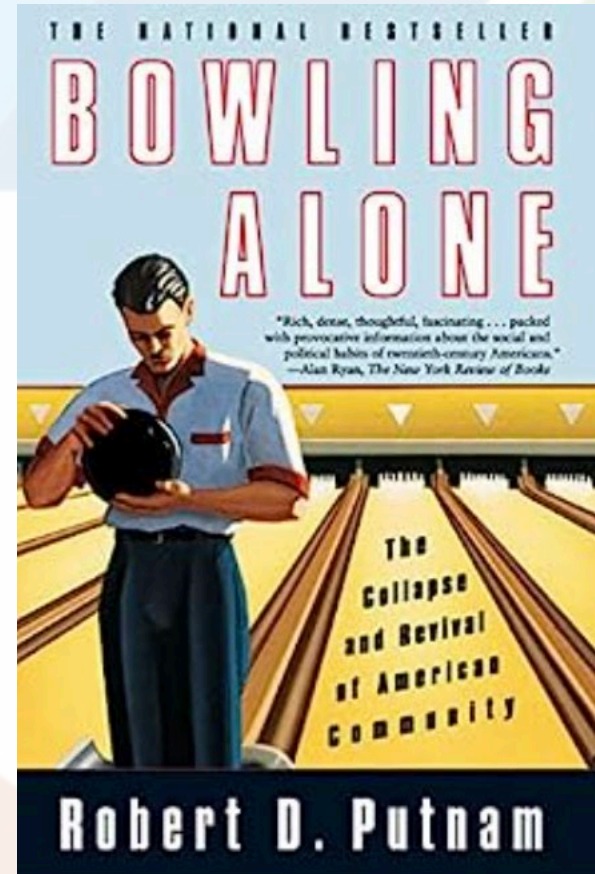


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# Social Connectedness and the Post 9/11 Veteran

- Veterans are 10% more likely than non-veterans to spend time with neighbors
- 23.3% of veterans report doing something positive for their neighborhood, compared to 20.5% of non-veterans



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# Veterans are more likely to:

- Volunteer
- Vote
- Donate to Charity
- Attend Community Meetings



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# Our Challenge to You:

## *Continue to Serve*

- Take what you learned and gained in the military and apply it toward making our communities better and stronger
- Go beyond being “a productive member of society”
- Take a leadership role in your neighborhoods, churches, schools, and workplaces
- Our nation and our communities need you!

**CONTINUE TO SERVE**