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THE next STEP

CREATING COMMUNITY FOR OUR VETS

ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGN

The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness at Ramapo College about the difficulties veterans often face post-war. Our vision is to have both faculty and students join together and become more involved with veteran affairs at the college, and get student veterans more involved to create a veteran community on campus. We wanted to create an environment and space where veterans could feel "at home" while at school. We surveyed and talked to our student veterans and saw they wanted a lounge. It is currently set to open in Fall 2016. We hope that the lounge will serve as a place for veterans to come together to meet one another, relax in between classes, do homework, and serve as a resource center, so veterans may easily find the services they may be looking for. Lastly, through various events, we are raising funds for our non-profit partner, Heroes to Heroes Foundation.

HEROES TO HEROES

Heroes to Heroes Foundation, a non-denominational 501(c)(3) organization, provides a spiritual healing, suicide prevention, and peer support program for veterans who suffer from Moral Injury and PTSD.



Heroes to Heroes Foundation supports all combat veterans, regardless of conflict. They welcome all who are having challenges with PTSD, Moral Injury, or having challenges of returning to civilian life after serving our country.

DID YOU KNOW?

Veteran suicides occur at an alarming rate of 22 per day.

The organization approaches the goal of helping our veterans suffering with PTSD, Moral Injury and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with structured and intense retreat-like trips to Israel. These trips focus on spirituality and peer support to allow deep emotional bonding with other American veterans suffering from the same issues, as well as Israeli veterans who are suffering in the same way. The trips create an environment where these American heroes can finally open-up and begin the healing process.

HOW OUR CAMPAIGN HELPS

Heroes to Heroes sends groups to Israel throughout the year, with 10 veterans per group. The trip costs approximately \$7,500 per veteran. The organization relies solely on donations with over 90 cents of every dollar going directly to helping these veterans. Heroes to Heroes continues to save lives with every trip and has never had a failure.

The money raised at our event has gone to the organization to help save these heroes and let them open-up and heal.

VETERAN RECEPTION

Monday, April 11, 2016 at 5:00 pm

Student veterans, board members from Heroes to Heroes, and Ramapo faculty and administration, were invited to a casual dinner in Friends Hall. Veterans were able to relax, eat, get to know each other, and talk to the faculty members who are involved in veteran affairs at Ramapo College.

The slideshow from our photo event was shared at the event and Heroes to Heroes introduced their organization with a short video.

How This Event Helped Meet Our Goal:

Veterans had the chance to meet one another and bond while also getting to know faculty members of various on campus organizations that serve veterans including, the Counseling Center and Center for Student Success.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CAMPAIGN AT RAMAPO

•AWARDS:

- 2016 Military Friendly School designation by Victory Media
- #20 school in the 2016 Best Colleges (Northeast Region) ranking that participate in federal initiatives helping veterans and active-duty service members pay for their degrees.



•Aside from Financial Aid services, we, as well as student veterans we have been working with, feel that little is done for our veterans.

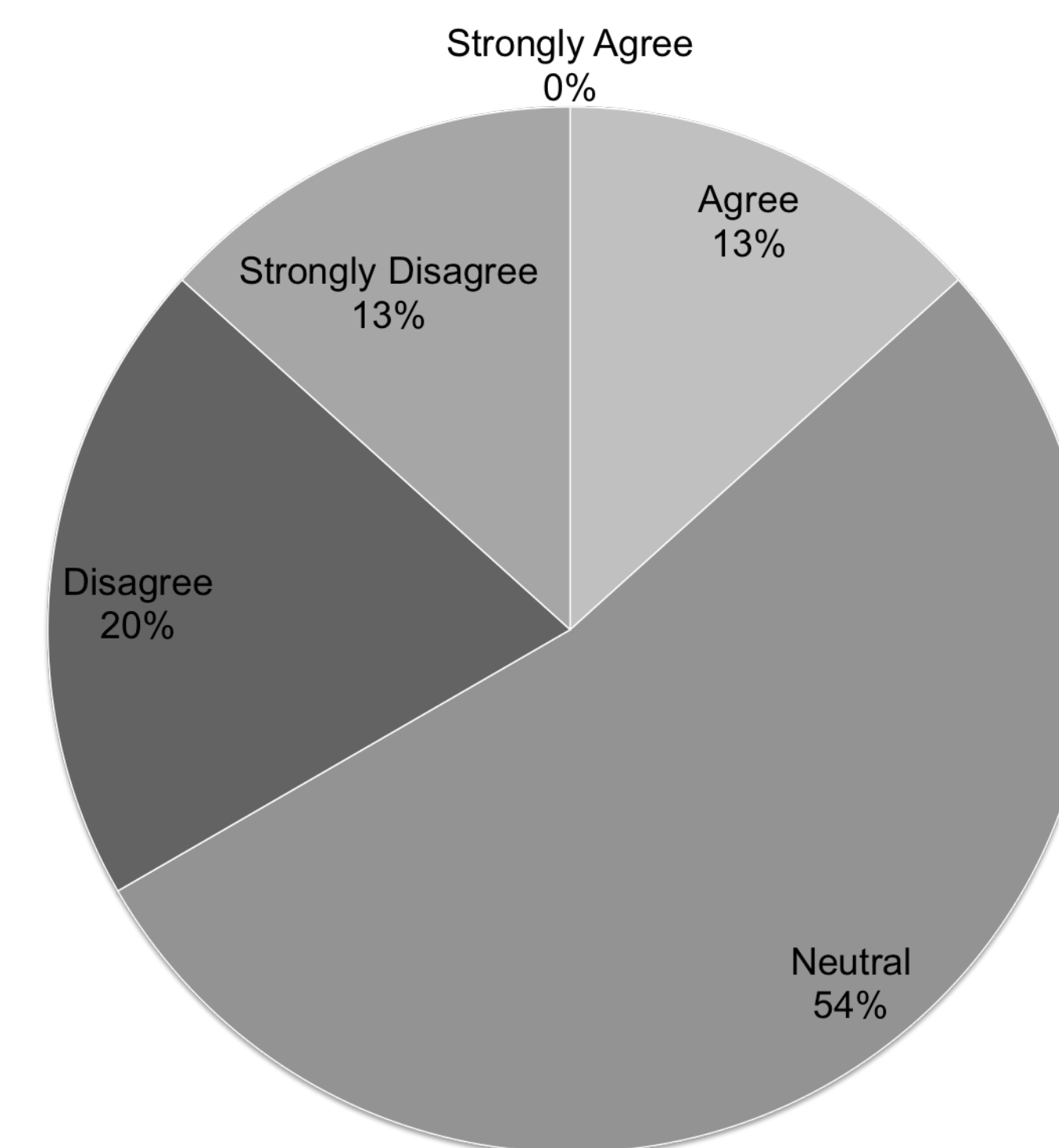
•We lack in the communication and services surrounding veterans at Ramapo College. With no direct contact for Veteran Affairs, these students find themselves searching to find what they need.



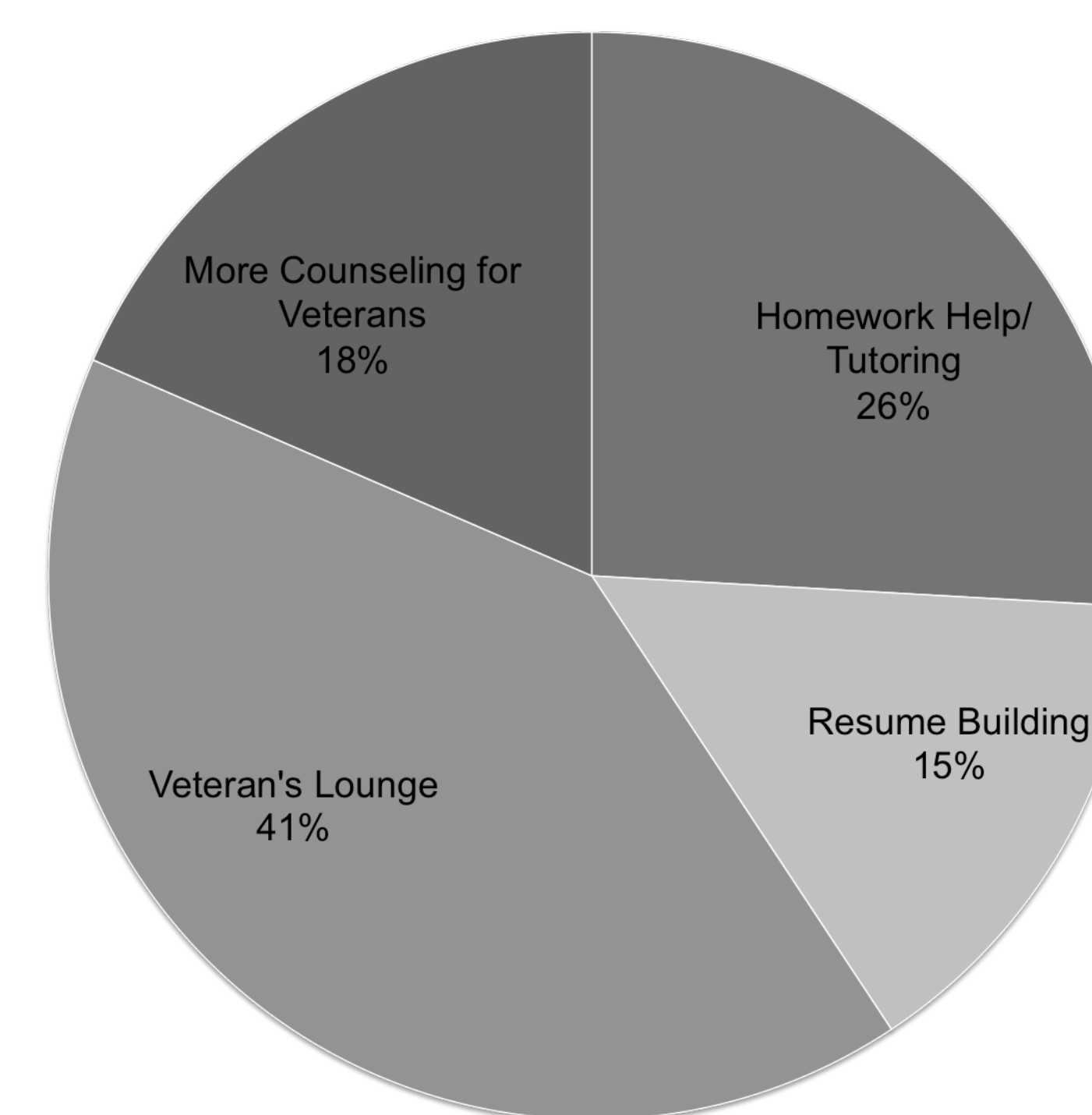
•We feel that more can be done for our veterans and our goal is to change this for current and future student veterans.

- Through surveys and focus groups with our student veterans, we found what they need and want to see at Ramapo College.

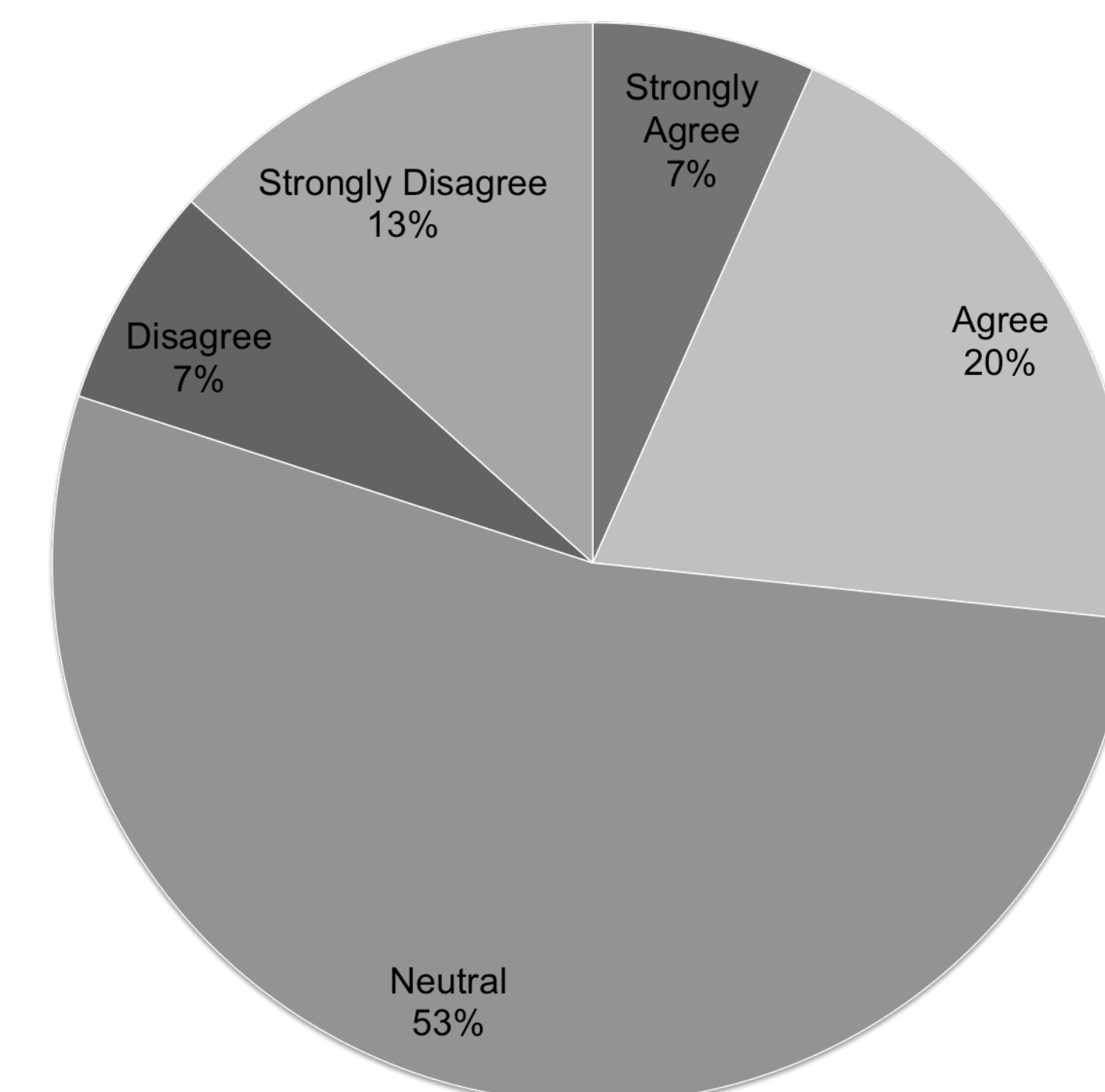
"I Chose Ramapo for its Pro-Veteran Reputation"



"I'd Like to See the Following Services Offered to Ramapo Veterans"



"I Believe There are Enough On-Campus Resources for Veterans at Ramapo"



IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE

Many men and women return from war with thoughts that negatively affect themselves as well as those around them. Many of our veterans return home with PTSD, Moral Injury, and Traumatic Brain Injury and these injuries may cause them to be anxious, depressed, and even have suicidal thoughts.

Veterans often feel a lack of trust upon return and have difficulty readjusting and reintegrating into everyday life. Even simple things that we take for granted such as coming back to school, can be too difficult for these men and women.

It is important that veterans are able to transition with ease and succeed in a school environment. We believe creating a veteran community at Ramapo College will help build trusting relationships, help veterans succeed during college and afterwards with the various resources the college offers, and lastly, bring more veterans to Ramapo College so our work can continue into the future.

Creating a community for our student veterans, making them feel "at home" while at school and providing them with the resources they may need is a way we can help them with their transition into daily life and the school environment.

BRAVE. COURAGEOUS. HERO

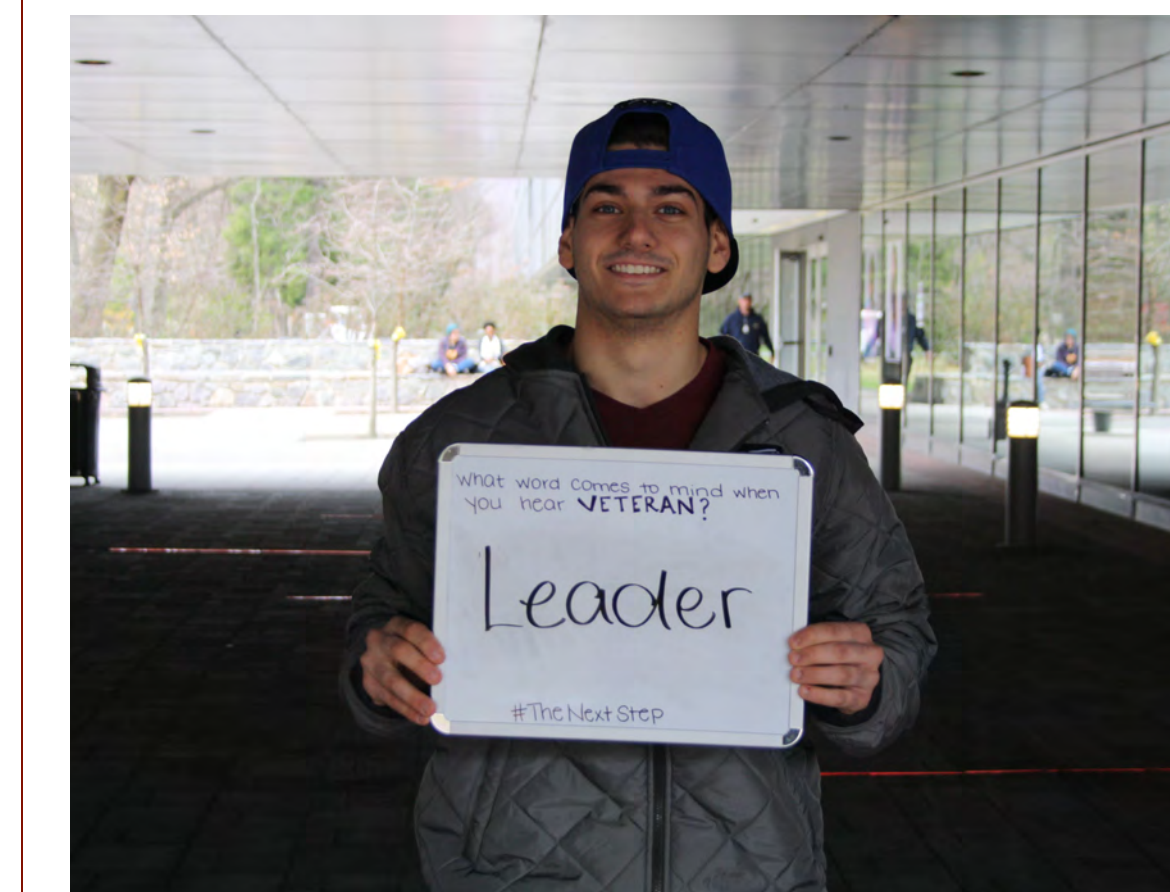
What Word Comes to Mind When You Hear VETERAN?

Monday, April 11, 2016 from 12:00-2:00 pm

Ramapo students took photos outside of the Student Center to show their support and appreciation for our student veterans. This event was co-sponsored by Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

How This Event Helped Meet Our Goal:

This event raised awareness about our student veterans on campus. It got non-veterans involved in veteran affairs/events and veterans involved on campus.



CRY HAVOC!

Written and Performed by Stephan Wolfert

Monday April 11, 2016, at 7:00pm.

The show wrapped up our events and tied together the main ideas our campaign. It is very difficult for veterans to transition back to civilian life after being "wired for war" through training and combat.

Free admission for students and veterans

How This Event Helped Meet Our Goal:

Through ticket sales and donations, this event also raised funds for Heroes to Heroes and the new Veteran/Transfer Lounge. Allowed students and faculty to see what veterans often struggle with while transitioning back into civilian life and raised awareness of this. The event also showed the normality of their experiences and allowed veterans to open up in front of an audience.