



*We Help Veterans & Families
Find More Peace in Their Life*

Which Organization to Support

May 2020

A growing component of our business is Outreach because we educate and inform folks, much of the information based on what we've learned by doing what we do every day. We interact with well over 100 Veterans every month, and with numerous Veteran resources, most of whom are already Qualified Resources.

We strongly believe our Veterans and their families deserve the absolute best resources we can find, who have proven to do what they say, for the price they say, when they say. This seems pretty simple, but it isn't always consistent.

As you evaluate the hundreds of advertised Veteran Resource organizations out there, please take the time to do your due diligence. Use common sense, and if someone makes a claim about their organization, check it out.

1. If they claim to be a company, check them out!
 - a. Go to the Colorado Secretary of State web site and search for their business name.
 - i. <https://www.sos.state.co.us/biz/BusinessEntityCriteriaExt.do>
 - ii. If one does not exist, you are warned
 - b. Once you find them, look at the documents, starting with the Articles of Incorporation
 - i. Look for who founded the organization and confirm it matches what is stated in their marketing materials or otherwise in public
 - ii. While you have the organization on your screen, click on the link, "Get a Certificate of Good Standing". This will show if the organization is following the appropriate State of Colorado laws to operate
 - iii. If they do not have one, you are warned
2. If they claim to be a Non-Profit or Not for Profit, check them out with the Colorado Secretary of State. They can file as a nonprofit with Colorado and obtain an EIN as a nonprofit, but these are only pieces of this puzzle, they do not make the organization a 501-C3 nonprofit.
 - a. If they claim any donations are tax deductible, check them out with the IRS. It is the IRS that designates what donations are tax deductible, not any individual State. Go to this site, <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/> and enter the information you have. What you are looking for is a designation letter from the IRS, similar to this one; <http://www.qualifiedlisteners.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/IRS-501-C3-Approval-March-2-2018.pdf>. If you don't see one, they are not currently a nonprofit.
 - b. If this does not exist, you are warned
 - c. If they do not have an IRS letter, you cannot deduct any donations you make to them. Some will claim they are because they've submitted their papers for review, but they are not. If you donate to them and they ultimately are rejected by the IRS, you can receive an invoice from the IRS for the unpaid taxes. We just want you to be aware of the risks involved.
3. Check out nonprofit organizations (such as Qualified Listeners) with the **Better Business Bureau** at bbb.org or give.org to ensure they are legitimate charities and Accredited by a third-party evaluator of nonprofits such as BBB. Accredited Charities with BBB have met a rigorous set of 20 Standards for Charity Accountability for truthfulness, trust, transparency and best practices.

Qualified Listeners is a BBB Accredited Charity dedicated to providing Veterans and their families with qualified and vetted services and we can't do what we do without your support. We invite you to learn more about us, donate, and/or share our information with a Veteran or family member who may benefit from our services or resources.

Thank you!

Greg Goettsch, Founder & Executive Director