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*For Immediate Release*

## **Homeless Veterans to be Honored at Veterans Day Celebration**

### *Mission Helps Veterans Deal With Issues of Life*

Joe Knoble entered the Rescue Mission homeless and searching for hope.

Just 10 years before, he entered the military in 1996 and became a proud member of the U.S. Army Rangers. He served in South Korea, Afghanistan and Iraq in the recent years' conflicts.

Though he personally shook the hand of George Bush and bravely defended our country, he just couldn't get over the fact that "killing was my job."

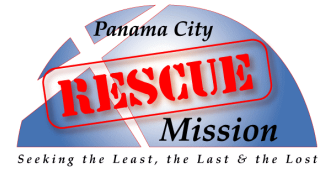
Haunted by painful memories, "I started drinking very heavily because I knew it was my fault that people were dead."

Drinking eventually left him homeless.

Joe entered the Mission's Pathways recovery program to get help and knows he has a lot to overcome. He will be honored for his service to our country at the Mission's Veteran's Day service and dinner this Friday at 11 am.

The service will feature speaker former Panama City Beach Mayor Lee Sullivan, a decorated military veteran. Speaking will also be Rev. Virgil Tillman, a retired Chaplain of the U.S. Navy. He first served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1965-1972 and then as a Navy Chaplain from 1982-2002 for a combined 26 years. He has served as the pastor of Kingswood Baptist Church in Southport.

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### *The Reality of Homeless Veterans Struggles*

“One-fourth of the homeless men in our country are veterans,” said Billy E. Fox, Executive Director for Panama City Rescue Mission. “For many, the memories of wartime are still fresh. And with U.S. servicemen and women again placing themselves in harm’s way, it brings back names and faces from years ago- including some who never came home from battle.”

Rev. Stephen E. Burger, Executive Director of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions said, “Nationally more than half of the veterans who are homeless served during Korea, Vietnam or the Persian Gulf conflicts. What used to be called ‘shell-shock’ is today termed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. When you combine the numerous other issues in homelessness, you see that homeless vets have much to overcome.”

Panama City Rescue Mission’s purpose is to provide an environment where the compassion and love of Christ can empower people to overcome and prevent life’s adversities. The Mission operates free of state and federal government support. It serves about 300 meals a day. It has 150 beds for men and women-- including four family units. More information can be found on the web at [www.pcrmission.org](http://www.pcrmission.org) or by calling 215-9007.

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