



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

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Matthew Doherty
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
1275 First Street NE, Ste. 227
Washington, DC 20552

Dear Matthew,

On behalf of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), the community based organizations in our network, and the tens of thousands of homeless and at risk veterans we serve every year, it is my honor to present you with the Jerald Washington Memorial Founders Award. Your work at the US Interagency Council on Homelessness has forever changed the landscape of services for people who are homeless, starting with our nation's veterans.

This award, given out once a year in connection with NCHV's Annual Conference, is our highest and most distinguished award. When the Founders started NCHV, they had little more than courage and a sense of moral duty. On this foundation, they built a movement charged with ending homelessness for every veteran in this country. Every year, their namesake award is given to an individual who shows the same level of moral fortitude and dedication to mission.

Your personal character, your commitment to partnership, and your urgency in building high quality and accessible tools to drive communities are all qualities that would make you deserving of this award. And while these are important reasons, they are only part of what makes us proud to honor you. You have earned this award because, like our Founders, you have shown a moral integrity and deep commitment to the people we serve at the moments when it has mattered most.

Where others would have bent to external pressures, you stayed consistently clear and firm. When others might have balked at the responsibility inherent in driving change, you have charged forward to create bold yet rational new ideas that resonate from the local to the national. When others might have opted for exclusivity or opacity, you have built benchmarks that are tangible, measurable, recognize the importance of choice, and require long-term solutions. Having you where you are in these moments has bent the arc of the moral universe a little closer toward justice for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Under your leadership, we are building systems that ensure homelessness is brief, rare, and non-recurring because that is the right thing to do. Your work at the US Interagency Council on Homelessness has already had profound impacts on the lives of all people experiencing homelessness, including veterans, by recognizing the importance of human dignity. It is an honor to know and work with you, and we look forward to many more years of service at your side.

Sincerely,

Baylee Crone and NCHV

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.