

## **Did You Know That Spouses Transition With Every Move?**

While attending last week's USO Pathfinder event co-sponsored by the St Philips College Good Samaritan Veterans Outreach and Transition Center and the City of San Antonio's Military Affairs Department, I met a very interesting spouse. She is Polish and has a experience as a human rights attorney. She is challenged with finding employment in the U.S. utilizing all of those talents and skills. I was able to connect her with a friend whose an employment lawyer. Malinda is marvelous and will meet with her. Yeah to Malinda and a huge atta-girl to Joanna.

This is an example of networking. It also highlights the challenges and the needs of the military spouse. First to dispel a misconception – all spouses are not female. The number of men opting to support the female military member is increasing daily. They are finding the same challenges that the women face.

Those challenges include juggling child care, frequent relocations, performing the role of single parent when the military member is deployed, etc., etc. If they find employment, will the job be one that fully utilizes their skills or will they be under-employed. They then have to explain these moves and the under-utilized skills when interviewing for the next position.

There are now several initiatives in the SA to assist these folks and to increase awareness to the community. First, the City of San Antonio has been designated as a Military Spouse Employment Empowerment Zone. This is the first of its kind in the nation. Second, we have a networking group – the Military Spouse Professional Network. This is a support group for the spouses. It's always better when you can meet your peers.

Monday, October 1, 2018 will also be a special day for the military spouse. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes and MOAA will be sponsoring an event just for spouses at the Pearl Stables. It will be a day filled with panel discussions and other resources for the attendees. Check out the flyer in this edition of the Lariat for registration information.

Transition is a way of life, especially in these times. Seek out the various resources available. There are many and most are free.

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