

DONATING TO VETERAN CHARITIES

It is gift giving season once again in Massachusetts. The generosity of Hudson's citizens towards military veterans is truly heartwarming and greatly appreciated by those in need and the administrators of those in need. The downside to your generosity is those organizations that claim to be collecting for a worthy cause and yet pocket the money for their own personal use.

Massachusetts AG Office encourages potential donors, regardless of where or how they choose to donate, to learn how to spot fraudulent and deceptive solicitations and make sure their contributions benefit veterans and service members. When donating to a charity, the AG's Office advises consumers to:

- Ask for the charity's name, website and physical location. Check it out.
- Ask how much of any donation will go to the charitable program you want to support.
- Search the charity's name online with the word "scam" or "complaint." See what other people say about it.
- Check out the charity's ratings at the Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Watch or Charity Navigator.
- Never pay with cash, a gift card or by wiring money.
- Consider paying by credit card, which is the safest option for security and tax purposes.

Additionally, check the AG website to see if the non-profit is actually registered as a 501c3 or registered at all. If it is not, chances are they are illegitimate.

When in doubt call your local Veteran Service Office. For your safety please do not engage or argue with the person collecting funds. We will check them out and ensure your hard-earned cash is not going somewhere other than where you want it to go and if necessary we will have the local police intervene. Chances are that if they are from out of town or state your money will be going there too.

Without the thousands of generous donors, charitable causes for our military veterans and their families would not be realized. It is a busy world we live in and we only request that you take the time to ensure that you give to legitimate organizations.

**HUDSON VETERAN SERVICES
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