

Our Veterans: Their Aging Matters

Abstract: The aging veteran encounters a varied combination of actors and factors that impact and influence his or her aging process. Issues may include physiological, psychological, and social concerns, which may exacerbate acute or chronic disabilities and disorders. As a cohort, aging veterans form a heterogeneous group due to the fact their service transcends multiple generations and conflicts. Correspondingly, all human services and interventions delivered to them and their families must accommodate these circumstances.

Presentation Description: This one hour interactive presentation, meant for veterans, their caregivers, and their families, is constructed to familiarize the attendee with the commonalities and differences in the aging process of our veterans. Society's role is to ensure that our aging veterans have appropriate and sufficient resources to permit a full engagement of their personal aging process. This calls for intimate understanding not only of the issues veterans face as they age, but also the multi-disciplinary responsibility for management and oversight required to support highly individualized circumstances.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will list the different characteristics veterans bring to the aging stage.
2. Participants will describe how society accommodates the aging veteran experience.
3. Participants will identify how the concept of engaged aging benefits first the veteran and then society.