

Law Enforcement Today with Sheriff Toulon



Conversation Card

The Issues Surrounding Incarcerated Veterans

Did you know that Suffolk County has one the highest veteran populations in the United States? Veterans face many issues which can increase the likelihood of contact with the criminal justice system. In fact, an estimated 180,000 veterans are incarcerated throughout the nation each year.

Veterans returning from conflicts overseas can sometimes suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In fact, 16% of all Gulf War II Veterans are diagnosed with PTSD and 2 out of 10 veterans with PTSD also have a Substance Use Disorder. Military veterans comprise 5% of the Suffolk County Jail population.

This month I teamed up with the organization Paws of War to help ease the transition for our incarcerated veterans. It's a simple and profound program.

Paws of War pairs a shelter dog with an incarcerated vet and teaches them how to train the dog to provide therapeutic care and comfort to a U.S. Military Veteran living in our community.

Visit www.pawsofwar.org for more information.