

**The Organization Name:**

Helping Another Veteran Endure (H.A.V.E.).

**The Event Information:**

Volunteers helped organize over 3,000+ suits for future "dress for success" events for veterans.

**The background story for H.A.V.E.:**

Retired U.S. Army Sergeant Prince Rawlings always wears a suit to his dialysis treatments at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and when he visits the wounded warriors' barracks right afterward. One day, more than two years ago, he stopped by to treat one of his fellow veterans to lunch. Much to his surprise, his lunch guest commented on his "good-looking suit." So, Rawlings let him try on the suit jacket and that simple act of kindness brought tears to the man's eyes. Later, on his ride home, Rawlings decided to get the suit cleaned and give it to the veteran. Since then, he, along with his friend, Melvin Woodward, started the non-profit organization Helping Another Veteran Endure (H.A.V.E.).

**The H.A.V.E. Website:**

It is still in the making, but the temporary website for the organization can be found here: <https://princeandmelvin.wixsite.com/website>

**Organizations who partnered with H.A.V.E.:**

1. Uniformed Services University's Student National Medical Association (USU's SNMA). The Student National Medical Association is committed to supporting current and future underrepresented minority medical students, addressing the needs of underserved communities, and increasing the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent and socially conscious physicians. A few of the volunteers who attended are active duty medical students who are leaders for this organization, including me (Victoria Nguyen).
2. Pageant Winners from the Miss America Organization and US American Organization.  
Victoria Nguyen - Miss Rockville  
Victoria Ofori-Okyere - USAM Miss Maryland  
Anna Dieme - Miss Montgomery County
3. Howard University premedical students and graduates
4. Active duty military members (4 active duty, 2 retired, 2 going to be military soon)

**Primary Organizers:**

Prince Rawlings  
Melwin Woodard  
Victoria Nguyen

**Was the event for Veterans only?**

Nope! The event is for anyone who wanted to help organize the suits to make it easier to distribute the suits to veterans.

**Are there plans for any future events?**

Yes, we're hoping to distribute all 3,000+ suits to veterans this summer. If you know of a place that needs suits or would like to partner with us, contact Prince Rawlings: 202-417-1859.

**Any other information you would like to add?**

It would be great if you could list all the volunteer's names somewhere so that they are recognized! I love it when my volunteers get recognition as well for their community service.

**The people present:**

Victoria Nguyen (The volunteer organizer, SNMA, Army Active Duty USU Medical Student)

Brandon Hillery (SNMA, Army Active Duty USU Medical Student)

Anna Dieme (Miss Montgomery County)

Victoria Ofori-Okyere (USAM Miss Maryland)

Kalis Cook (Pre-medical student)

Amber Mitchell (Howard University)

Miata Smith (Pre-Med/Graduate Student)

Ronj Buendia (Howard University)

Carmiya Bady (Howard University)

Alexandra Crosswait (Active Duty USU Medical Student)

Benjamin Epstein (SNMA, MD/PhD at USU)

Rebecca Carter (Fort Foote Baptist Church volunteer)

Prince Rawlings (Co-Founder)

Melvin Woodard (Co-Founder)

George Owings (the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the State of Maryland)