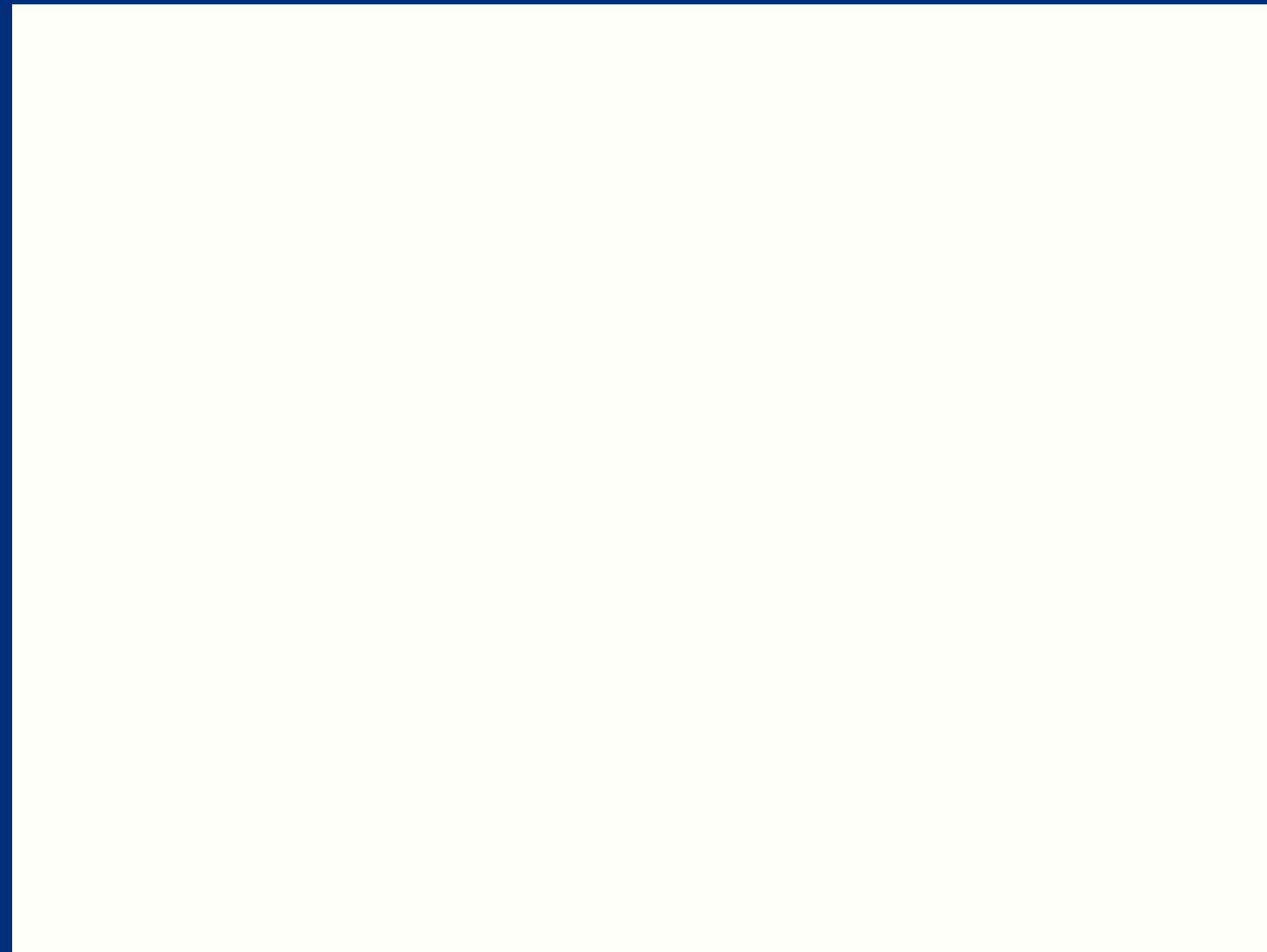# Veterans and A.I.: How We Should Use Artificial Intelligence to Solve Our Problems

Presented by Jerome Hardaway

Introduction

I'm **Jerome Hardaway**, U.S. Air Force veteran, software engineer, and founder of **Vets Who Code**.

My work has been featured on **StackOverflow, LinkedIn Learning, GitHub,** and **Wired Magazine**, among others.

I've led Vets Who Code to generate over **$20.2 million in salaries** for veterans and military spouses.

Today, we'll explore how **Artificial Intelligence** can help address the challenges our community faces, including:

— **Community representation**

— **Employment transitions**

What We'll Cover

— **Community Representation**

— **Military Veteran Influencers**

— **Employment Transitions**

— **Veteran Suicide**

— **Veteran Homelessness**

— **Mental Health**

Community Representation: The Problem

Misrepresentation:

Veterans are often portrayed as **white, male, retired officers**, which doesn't reflect our true diversity.

Reality:

— **74%** serve less than 10 years.

— **85%** aren't combat arms.

Yet, **retired officers dominate leadership** and media representation.

Military Veteran Influencers: A Mixed Impact

Awareness, but no depth:

Influencers raise awareness but don't provide **long-term solutions**.

Homelessness visibility:

Focus on homelessness **spikes around holidays** but drops off the rest of the year.

Employment success:

Influencers excel in promoting **employment programs** like Vets Who Code.

Veteran Suicide: A Crisis We Must Address

Statistics:

Veterans aged **55-74** are at the highest risk. Younger and older veterans fare better.

Firearms:

Firearms are the number one method of **suicide** for veterans.

AI's Role:

AI can **analyze behavior patterns**, identify early warning signs, and provide **timely**

Veteran Employment: Successes and Challenges

Progress:

Veteran employment has improved, but many struggle to **translate military experience** into civilian careers.

AI Solutions:

— AI can assess **transferable skills**.

— Create **personalized learning paths**.

— Guide veterans into **new industries**.

Example:

Veteran Homelessness: A Crisis Still in Need of Solutions

Trends:

From **2001-2021**, veteran homelessness declined by **55%**, but remains a critical issue in **high-cost urban areas**.

Causes:

— **PTSD**

— **Substance abuse**

— Difficulty transitioning

— Lack of affordable housing

How AI Can Help Solve Veteran Homelessness

Predictive Models:

AI can identify at-risk veterans based on **healthcare visits**, **mental health records**, and **employment history**.

Resource Allocation:

AI can optimize where resources like **housing vouchers** and **mental health services** should go.

Personalized Case Management:

Conclusion: AI as a Game-Changer

Recap:

— AI can reshape **community representation**, help with **employment transitions**, prevent **suicide**, and reduce **homelessness**.

Message:

AI isn't a replacement for **human efforts** but a **tool to enhance them**.

Call to Action:

Let's work together to use **AI** and **human-centered care** to build systems that better serve