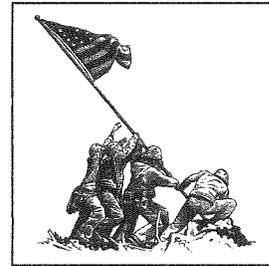


Veterans Memorial Commission

50 Second Avenue Bridge
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401 - 1256
(319) 286 -5038



February 12, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend to you Healing Our Heroes and its Executive Director, Kelly Ridenour. In the relatively brief time I have known her, she has demonstrated to the Veterans Memorial Commission that she is a person of strong character and the organization she has built has accomplished some remarkable things in a very short time.

In the time since Healing Our Heroes began operations from the Veterans Memorial Building, I have seen exceptional growth and productivity. Mrs. Ridenour and Healing Our Heroes have demonstrated that an organization does not have to have a large staff or even a large budget to make an immense difference in the community. She has managed to distinguish herself and her organization by building a reputation as someone who does what she says she will do.

I have firsthand knowledge that Healing Our Heroes has assisted Veterans and their families in meaningful ways, hosted several successful community events, and are currently working on an impressive Veteran's housing project that will meet the needs of local Veterans experiencing homelessness and/or poverty. The work being done on the Patriot Place facility is something I am proud to see coming out of an organization that got its start in the Veterans Memorial Building. The Commission very much looks forward to seeing this facility in operation.

In addition to the impressive results I have seen from Healing Our Heroes, I have also observed their efforts to bring together other Veterans organizations. I have seen Kelly demonstrate excellent communication skills and diplomacy with everyone from Veteran's organizations to city and county leaders. I'm aware that the Mrs. Ridenour has worked to garner support for Patriot Place and as a result both the city and county have passed resolutions in support of the project. She has also obtained letters of support from US Senator Joni Ernst, and Congressman Rod Blum

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter of recommendation and consideration of their request for support. I consider the work of Healing Our Heroes and Mrs. Ridenour an asset to not only the Veterans community, but to the City of Cedar Rapids as well.

Sincerely,

Gary Grant, Chairman
Veterans Memorial Commission

nw

" May the wreaths they have won never wither, nor the star of their glory never dim."