We are calling on you to bring the Storytellers concept to your community by hosting your own StorytellersX.

Fewer Americans serve in the military today than ever before. With base consolidation, post-9/11 security measures, repeated deployments, and an all-volunteer force, most civilians have been isolated from service members and military culture.

Research shows that a majority of Americans view veterans as either broken or heroic. In reality, veterans are everyday Americans with diverse experiences and stories to share. Research shows that veterans are more civically engaged -- they vote, volunteer and serve in their communities at higher rates than their civilian counterparts. StorytellersX showcases the exemplary talents and ideas of some of our country’s brightest and most ground-breaking veterans. The program gives veterans the opportunity to share their stories, challenge stereotypes and misconceptions, foster understanding and connect with their communities.

In 2012, Got Your 6 was launched to change negative and inaccurate perceptions of veterans. Through its Storytellers program it has provided a “TED Talk” like platform for over 50 veterans from different backgrounds and with different experiences to share their stories at a national level to humanize their experiences, often while overcoming challenges, to show Americans that veterans are in fact civic assets. These stories have been seen by tens of millions of Americans and we are starting to see a shift in the public’s perception.

This November, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Got Your 6 and other partners are calling on local leaders to bring the Storytellers concept to communities around the country by hosting their own StorytellersX. Our goal is to shape a national narrative that promotes veterans as leaders, problem solvers and team builders. StorytellersX events allow veterans to share their personal stories with their local communities, building relationships and connections to truly inspire local leaders to empower veterans to lead again. It’s what we call #VetInspired.

If you are interested in hosting a StorytellersX event in November 2017, please contact Andrea Martinez (andrea.martinez2@va.gov). Local hosts will receive guidance on how to organize a successful StorytellersX event. However, we are depending on empowered hosts to make StorytellersX events successful since no one knows your community like you do.