



JOHN FLEETWOOD MOODY VETERANS INITIATIVE

PROGRAM BRIEF & CASE FOR SUPPORT

Service remembered. Veterans supported.

Veteran Relief

Health & Recovery

Stability & Navigation

Legacy & Remembrance

A standing veterans program of The Poston Foundation

The Initiative honors the service and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel John Fleetwood Moody through practical veteran relief, trusted resource connection, responsible partnerships, health and recovery awareness, and remembrance.

The Poston Foundation | Columbia, South Carolina | EIN 85-0559047

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Veterans need practical support that connects immediate needs to trusted systems.

The John Fleetwood Moody Veterans Initiative starts from a simple premise: the effects and practical needs associated with military service can continue long after active duty ends, and community responsibility does not end at discharge. Veterans may face overlapping pressures involving housing, employment, disability, mental health, transportation, benefits access, financial strain, social isolation, and transition. The Initiative will not duplicate the VA, SCDVA, accredited representatives, clinicians, housing providers, or established veteran-service organizations. Its role is complementary: provide practical relief where the Foundation can do so responsibly, connect veterans to qualified resources, and build partnerships that shorten the distance between need and help.

150 South Carolina veteran suicide deaths 2024 VA data [3]	1,500 Veterans assisted through SCDVA homelessness/transition funding reported June 2026 [4]	434 Veterans permanently housed by Columbia VA FY2025 [5]
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Why this matters

- VA reports 150 veteran suicide deaths in South Carolina in 2024, an unadjusted rate of 38.6 per 100,000. After age adjustment, South Carolina’s veteran suicide rate was significantly higher than the national general-population suicide rate. [3]
- SCDVA reported that its Veterans’ Homelessness and Transition Grant assisted 1,500 veterans and eight widows in the prior grant year with housing, rental and utility assistance, wellness, employment, transportation, and case management. [4]
- Columbia VA identifies financial hardship, unemployment, addiction, depression, and transition from jail among conditions associated with veteran homelessness or housing risk, underscoring the need for coordinated referral pathways. [6]

The Initiative fills a complementary role.
The Foundation will not promise clinical treatment, benefits awards, legal representation, or guaranteed housing. It will concentrate on practical relief, responsible referral, collaborative outreach, careful stewardship, and veteran legacy work that can be documented and sustained.

A legacy of service, aviation, leadership, and authorship.

John Fleetwood Moody (1933-2004) was born in Lake City, South Carolina. The Citadel Alumni Association’s memorial record identifies him as a Citadel graduate, retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, helicopter and airplane pilot, and author of The Black Bishop. It reports that he served in Korea, completed two tours in Vietnam, and received two Bronze Stars and 15 Air Medals. [1][2]

South Carolina roots	Born in Lake City; later lived in Salters, South Carolina.
Military service	Retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel; helicopter and airplane pilot; served in Korea and completed two tours in Vietnam.
Decorations	Two Bronze Stars and 15 Air Medals, according to The Citadel Alumni Association memorial record.
Literary legacy	Author of The Black Bishop; the book remains part of his documented public legacy.

Why name the Initiative for him?

The name gives the Initiative a real human anchor while preserving discipline about what one veteran’s life can and cannot represent. Moody’s verified military record connects the program to service and sacrifice. The Foundation’s family connection explains why this work is personal, but public claims will remain limited to documented facts and authorized family history. The Initiative’s work on PTSD, suicide prevention, mental health, homelessness, and transition will be grounded in current veteran need and responsible referral - not unsupported clinical claims about Moody or any other individual.

The Foundation will distinguish documented fact, family history, and interpretation. Sensitive medical or cause-of-death claims will not be used publicly without sufficient factual support and family authorization for the intended context.

The Black Bishop and legacy work

The Black Bishop may be displayed and discussed as part of Moody’s literary legacy. Any republication, sale, licensing, adaptation, or representation that proceeds support the Initiative will occur only after ownership, permissions, and the revenue arrangement are documented.

Four pillars. Clear boundaries. Practical implementation.

The Initiative is intentionally broad enough to respond to real veteran needs, but disciplined enough to remain credible. Its work is organized around four standing program pillars.

Pillar	What the Initiative may do	What it does not claim to replace
Veteran Relief	Practical goods; modest short-term in-kind assistance under objective charitable criteria; outreach supplies; and approved emergency-support items as capacity permits.	Cash grants, gift cards or cash equivalents, recurring financial assistance, or direct payment of personal obligations until a separate Board-approved Individual Assistance Policy exists.
Health & Recovery	PTSD and suicide-prevention education; mental-health and recovery awareness; stigma reduction; resource connection; referral to qualified providers and crisis services.	Diagnosis, therapy, crisis response, medical treatment, or clinical case management.
Stability & Navigation	Connections to VA, SCDVA, county veterans offices, accredited representatives, housing, employment, transportation, benefits resources, and community providers.	Guaranteed benefits, legal representation, VA claims advocacy without accreditation, or guaranteed housing placement.
Legacy & Remembrance	Veterans Day and other commemorative activity; veteran stories; historical and educational content; preservation of Moody's military and literary legacy.	Unverified military, medical, biographical, or intellectual-property claims.

How assistance will be delivered

- Directly by The Poston Foundation when assistance falls within documented program criteria, available resources, and operating capacity.
- Through controlled partnerships with veteran-serving or community organizations when those partners are better positioned to reach or serve eligible veterans.
- Through referral and navigation when another provider has the professional, governmental, accredited, or clinical role required for the veteran's need.

A veterans fund with Foundation-level financial control.

The John Fleetwood Moody Veterans Relief Fund is the Initiative’s internal program and accounting designation within The Poston Foundation. Charitable gifts are made to The Poston Foundation, not to a separate corporation, trust, endowment, bank account, donor-advised fund, or tax-exempt entity. The Foundation retains legal and fiduciary control over the funds and over beneficiary selection.

Support may include • Charitable contributions and memorial gifts • Foundation, corporate, and government grants • Business and event sponsorships • Appropriate in-kind goods and services • Board-designated Foundation resources	Funds may support • Approved practical veteran relief • Outreach, referral, and resource-navigation activity • Veterans Day and community engagement • Education and awareness programming • Program logistics, documentation, and reasonable administration
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Donor and sponsor safeguards

- The Foundation does not accept charitable gifts earmarked for a named individual or family, and donors or sponsors may not control beneficiary selection.
- Donor-imposed restrictions accepted by the Foundation will be separately tracked and honored; Board-designated unrestricted resources remain subject to Board authority.
- Sponsor recognition acknowledges charitable or program support and does not imply governmental endorsement, beneficiary access, or guaranteed promotional exposure.
- No fixed “dollars equals one veteran served” claim will be used until the underlying service model, unit economics, and commitment are documented.
- Charitable receipts identify The Poston Foundation as the tax-exempt recipient; the Relief Fund is the program designation, not a separate charity.

Accountability before scale The Initiative will report actual activity rather than aspirational impact. During its first year, the Foundation will track funds received and spent, restrictions, in-kind support, outreach, partnerships, referrals, assistance delivered, Veterans Day activity, and lessons learned. The governing package calls for a first formal Initiative review no later than January 31, 2027; defensible 2027 targets should be set from that operating baseline.

Launching in South Carolina. Built to grow through partnership.

The Initiative’s mission is not geographically limited to South Carolina; its initial operating footprint is. The first phase will focus on Columbia, the Midlands, and other South Carolina communities reached through responsible partners. Veterans Day 2026 is the public launch point - not a one-day campaign, but the beginning of a standing veterans program.

Fund the work Support the John Fleetwood Moody Veterans Relief Fund through charitable gifts, grants, memorial contributions, or launch funding.	Sponsor outreach Support Veterans Day participation, veteran-resource materials, community events, and responsible public education.
Partner with the Initiative Help build referral pathways, share subject-matter expertise, identify service gaps, or collaborate on veteran-facing outreach.	Provide in-kind support Offer appropriate goods, professional services, space, printing, transportation support, or other resources aligned with documented program needs.

FIRST-YEAR PRIORITIES

Prove the model before scaling it.

- The first year should establish a documented operating baseline and durable referral relationships before the Initiative makes larger service commitments.
- Establish documented referral relationships with VA, SCDVA, county veterans offices, accredited representatives, and community providers.
 - Launch dedicated web and donation infrastructure and a credible Veterans Day 2026 public presence under The Poston Foundation’s identity.
 - Provide approved practical and in-kind relief as funding, objective criteria, and operating capacity permit.
 - Produce accurate veteran-resource and outreach materials while cultivating appropriate sponsors and in-kind partners.
 - Track funds, restrictions, in-kind support, outreach, referrals, assistance, partnerships, and lessons learned; use the first formal review to set defensible 2027 targets.

Immediate help for veterans
Veterans in crisis may call 988 and press 1, or text 838255. Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness may call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-424-3838. These services are operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, not by The Poston Foundation. [7][8]

Contact

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John Fleetwood Moody Veterans Initiative | Service remembered. Veterans supported.

Current public sources supporting this brief.

Public factual claims in this brief are limited to cited sources or adopted Foundation governance documents. Sensitive family history is not presented as clinical or cause-of-death fact absent sufficient documentation and authorization. Web sources were verified October 21, 2026.

1. The Citadel Alumni Association, “John F. Moody, ’55” - obituary/memorial record documenting birth, education, Army rank, aviation service, Korea and Vietnam service, decorations, and authorship. [Open source](#)
2. JohnFleetwoodMoody.com, “Biography of John Fleetwood Moody” - family-prepared memorial biography used for chronology, South Carolina context, and archival framing. [Open source](#)
3. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, “South Carolina Veteran Suicide Data Sheet, 2024,” accompanying the 2026 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. [Open source](#)
4. South Carolina Department of Veterans’ Affairs, “SCDVA grant assists more than 1,500 South Carolina Veterans,” June 19, 2026. [Open source](#)
5. Columbia VA Health Care System, “VA houses largest number of homeless Veterans in seven years; Columbia VAHCS helped house 434 Veterans locally,” December 5, 2025. [Open source](#)
6. Columbia VA Health Care System, “Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV),” including current risk-factor and service descriptions; page last updated August 3, 2026. [Open source](#)
7. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Crisis Line - call 988 and press 1; text 838255. [Open source](#)
8. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Call Center for Homeless Veterans - 877-424-3838. [Open source](#)
9. The Poston Foundation, John Fleetwood Moody Veterans Initiative Governing Package, 2026 - controlling internal authority for program scope, Relief Fund administration, individual-assistance safeguards, and implementation controls.

Data note: the VA’s 38.6 per 100,000 South Carolina veteran suicide rate is an unadjusted rate. The significance comparison cited in this brief is based on age-adjusted rates, as explained in the VA data sheet. [3]

Program scope is governed by The Poston Foundation’s duly adopted policies and the John Fleetwood Moody Veterans Initiative governing package. This brief is informational; it does not create an entitlement to assistance, a promise of benefits, or a contractual obligation.