NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTY MANAGERS AND OWNERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAHMA Encourages Veterans to Make the Connection

Alexandria, Va., May 22, 2015 — As we celebrate Memorial Day, it is a good time to remember not all of our service members' wounds are visible on the outside. May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) is teaming up with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to promote the Make the Connection program and provide resources available to veteran residents.

The VA launched the Make the Connection campaign to help veterans and their families connect with services that improve their lives. The campaign encourages veterans and their families to "make the connection"—with other people, with resources, with symptoms of mental health issues, and with treatment and support—to get their lives on a better track.

<u>MakeTheConnection.net</u> is a free, confidential resource where veterans and their families and friends can privately explore such topics as health, wellness and common challenges. Some of the website links that could be helpful to residents include:

- Homelessness: http://maketheconnection.net/events/homelessness
- Video gallery of Veterans speaking about how they overcame homelessness: http://maketheconnection.net/stories-of-connection?experiences=11
- Family and relationship challenges for veterans: http://maketheconnection.net/events/family-relationships
- Financial and Legal Issues: http://maketheconnection.net/events/financial-legal-issues
- Transitioning from Service: http://maketheconnection.net/events/transitioning-from-service

The success of the VA's efforts during Mental Health Awareness Month depends on everyone's support. Visit MakeTheConnection.net/Connect today to discover how this website can make a positive difference in the lives of the veterans in your community. Make the Connection is also on YouTube and Facebook, where veterans you know can join the conversation about strength and resources for living well.

Make the Connection encourages veterans to seek support and mental health services when needed. If you are working with a veteran in immediate crisis, trained responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year with confidential support and guidance. Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at <u>VeteransCrisisLine.net</u> or send a text message to 838255.

NAHMA is the leading voice for affordable housing management, advocating on behalf of multifamily property managers and owners whose mission is to provide quality affordable housing. NAHMA supports legislative and regulatory policy that promotes the development and preservation of decent

and safe affordable housing, is a vital resource for technical education and information and fosters strategic relations between government and industry. Founded in 1990, NAHMA's membership today includes the industry's most distinguished multifamily owners and management companies. Visit www.nahma.org for more information.

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