

# South Bend Tribune

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## OUR OPINION

### A veteran who never forgot

**T**wo years ago, at a stage of life where he easily could have rested on his many accomplishments, former St. Joseph Superior Court Judge Robert L. Miller Sr. found a calling and a new purpose.

Miller, a retired lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves during World War II and the Korean War, was haunted by the plight of homeless veterans.

Collaborating with the Center for the Homeless, he founded Miller's Vets to help restore dignity and pride in the lives of those oft-forgotten who served their country. Its members form a drill team that dresses in military uniform and marches at local veterans' events. The program also offers "The Last Salute" to indigent St. Joseph County veterans, ensuring that they receive proper burials, including full military honors, at no charge.

Miller is hoping to expand the program to reach other veterans throughout Indiana. And later this year, his vision will be fully realized when the new veterans' center bearing his name is dedicated on Veterans Day.

Miller plans to hand over the leadership duties before then. At 90, this tireless advocate and community servant thinks it's the perfect time for a change.

We know that Miller won't step down until just the right person is in place to continue the important work he started. Of course, helping his fellow veterans is more than an abstract cause for Miller. The judge told a Tribune reporter that his successor will need a special sense of compassion — "a drive to help these homeless veterans."

For remembering those too commonly forgotten, for a commitment to helping them in life and in death and, yes, for an abundance of compassion, this veteran has earned a community's thanks.