



Massachusetts Veterans Inc.

69 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605 • Tel: (508) 791-5348 • Fax: (508) 791-5296

www.massveterans.org

SPECIAL ADVISORY: Massachusetts Veterans, Inc. Never Uses Telemarketers

WORCESTER, Mass., Feb. 12, 2009 - Massachusetts Veterans, Inc. has received notification that someone may be fraudulently soliciting donations on our behalf. Please be advised that Massachusetts Veterans, Inc. does not sponsor or participate in any Telephone Solicitation Campaigns and has not requested assistance with fund-raising from any organization or group.

Tips to avoid fraudulent telemarketing:

- Never give your personal information to an unfamiliar caller.
- Always take the time to investigate carefully any request for money that a telemarketer makes, and you should never be rushed or forced into making a hasty decision.
- Verify the information.
- We suggest donating to a charity directly. Make sure the charity is legitimate; check it out with your state or local consumer agency and the Better Business Bureau. Donate to recognized charities with a history.
- Look closely at charities with names similar to well-known organizations. Some phony charities try to gain your trust by using names that sound or look like legitimate organizations. Ask the caller *"Can you point me to a Website or another resource for more information about your organization?"*
- If you believe you are a victim of fraud, report it immediately.
- Call the Attorney General's Office (617) 727-2200, ext. 2101, to find out if the charity and its fundraiser are registered to operate in the Commonwealth.
- Call your local police department; some require organizations to register before soliciting; they may be able to tell you if they have received complaints about the solicitation.
- The National Fraud Information Center maintains an "800" toll-free number that consumers can call if they have questions or want to report possible instances of telemarketing fraud: 800-876-7060.
- Call the charity directly and find out whether they are aware of the solicitation and have authorized the use of their name.

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