



That All May Read – Serving Seniors and Veterans

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Senior Citizen Population Explosion

Today in the United States, nearly 40 million Americans are age 65 and older, an estimated 12% of the population. By 2030, there will be about 72.1 million older persons.

The National Center for Health Statistics projects that the number of blind people will more than double by 2020 due in large part to our aging population. It's estimated that vision loss increases by about 400 percent as one moves from the 18-44 age group through the 70-84 age group.

Number of Disabled Veterans Rising

Troops come home with devastating injuries that might well have killed them in earlier wars. The number of disabled veterans has jumped by 25 percent since 2001 to 2.9 million. The American Legion reports that the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are resulting in more severe injuries — amputations and traumatic burns — the kind of injuries that troops in Vietnam and earlier wars would not have survived.

Vision impairments have become an increasingly common health problem among U.S. military troops. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that about 158,000 U.S. veterans are visually impaired or blind, and more than one million have low vision. Thirteen percent of our wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have received a serious eye injury.

The Talking Book program is especially dedicated to serving the reading needs of the nation's blind and physically handicapped veterans, who account for some of its most avid patrons.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library serves Missourians who are unable to read standard print materials due to blindness, visual impairment, or physical disability, either temporary or permanent.

Many of the people you currently serve may qualify for Talking Books



Large Print Readers - Your readers who need large print books can supplement their reading with Talking Books.

Audio Book Users - Are any using audio books because of a reading limitation?



Homebound Patrons – People who have difficulty holding books or turning pages due to issues such as weakness, pain, paralysis, or tremors qualify for our services.

Injured Veterans - Ensure that blind and physically handicapped veterans are able to continue to enjoy their love of reading.



Wolfner's Talking Books provide a way for our patrons to continue to learn and connect with others and their communities through reading

1-800-392-2614

www.sos.mo.gov/wolfner