



**EMBARGOED UNTIL MARCH 8, 2019**

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**Veteran of the Year Award Presented to Shark Tank Guest**  
***First award to woman veteran announced on International Women's Day***

Chicago, Ill. (March 2019) – National Able Network, a female veteran-led workforce organization, presents its annual Veteran of the Year award to Harvard Business School graduate, Rumi Spice co-founder, and U.S. Army veteran, Emily Miller. The award will be presented on May 17, 2019 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran of the Year Luncheon in Chicago. This is the very first Veteran of the Year award presented to a woman in the history of the organization.

Miller co-founded Rumi Spice which is one of the largest employers of Afghan women and imports premium saffron directly from Afghan farmers. During Miller's time in the Army, she was one of the first women to serve as a Cultural Support Team member. These were specially selected soldiers trained to join special forces soldiers on missions in Afghanistan. Miller joined U.S. Army Rangers to apprehend high value terrorist targets and worked directly with Afghan women to gain important information for future missions. It was this experience that led her to co-found Rumi Spice.

"Emily's innovation in bringing peace by creating jobs for women through Rumi Spice, in addition to her leadership in the Army really stood out to us," says Bridget Altenburg, President & CEO of National Able Network. "We work with lots of veterans, and we really wanted to take this opportunity, especially on International Women's Day, to highlight a woman whose work, service, and advocacy made economic and social progress."

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran of the Year Luncheon is an opportunity to celebrate and support the veteran community. All proceeds from this event will be put back into the Veterans Forward department at National Able Network. Veterans Forward helps veterans successfully transition to the civilian working world, and even reduces job search time by about 20 percent.

For more information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran of the Year Luncheon, please visit:  
[www.NationalAble.org/Vets](http://www.NationalAble.org/Vets).

**About National Able Network**

At National Able Network, our mission is to help make careers happen. Each client receives personalized

career supports that integrate career coaching, specialized training, and direct connections to the job market. Our programs are designed to assist jobseekers from all backgrounds, including the unemployed, career changers, military veterans, seniors, and aspiring IT professionals. Each year, National Able Network provides service to nearly 76,000 individuals in Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

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