

# VET NET Newsletter

September, 2022

## SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

# HEROES



# WE WILL NEVER FORGET



Sponsored by

### **Veterans' Outreach**

Serving Veterans in AL, FL, KY, NY, OH & WV

[veteransoutreach.org](http://veteransoutreach.org) 888-2-VET-NET



## WWII Veteran Comes out of Retirement at 99 to Help Veterans

Joe Lavinger, aka "Crazy Joe" decided to go back to work to help veterans, after the Pandemic, to pick up where he left off. We retired him from fundraising out of the Columbus Ohio region when he was 97. The Pandemic had just started sweeping the nation, we didn't want to take any chances, so we asked him to stay home and be

safe.

Let me give a little background about Joe, before I continue.

He served in the Navy during WWII. He was deployed on a minesweeper, called The USS Steady. Their ship had the dangerous task of removing mines from minefields laid in the water to prevent ships from passing. He and his buddies were more than a little apprehensive and scared out of their minds. I think that's when Joe realized his gifts for calming people down with his jokes and funny antics, while bombs were going off all around them.

**Read More →**

John Ely

President Veterans' Outreach











**1-888-2-Vet-Net**  
**1-888-283-8638**  
**VeteransOutreach.org**

## Golf Scramble Was A Great Success

### VETERANS' OUTREACH 7TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

It is with heartfelt appreciation that we thank everyone that attended the event, everyone that, supported the event, and everyone that volunteered to make the day so much fun and so successful for the mission of serving and honoring all veterans.

Sponsors and golfers were all about stepping up to help veterans enjoy a better quality of life.

Those of us at Veterans' Outreach were simply awed and amazed to look out at the golfers in their carts lined up like a front line of soldiers going off to battle. The difference is that every one of them was smiling and excited to get on with the day.

It was a beautiful sunny day, there were 35 teams signed up, the golf course personnel stood ready to provide a fun day, and the drone photographer memorialized it all as we all looked up at the drone snapping our picture.

We thoroughly enjoyed the day, even with all the work and activity to make it a success. Veterans can know for sure how much they are appreciated for their service and sacrifice. As a result of this event, Veterans' Outreach is able to help more veterans in their time of need.





## HOLLYWOOD 9/11 CHARITY DONATE & WIN

On Sunday, 9/11/2022, we remembered the terrible tragedy of 9/11/2001 when four coordinated suicide terrorist attacks were carried out by the Islamic extremist network al-Qaeda against the United States. There were 2,996 deaths and many more that suffered injuries.

First responders and U.S. military answered the call to duty. Now it's our turn to stand ready to answer the call to aid and assist our military men and women when they need help.

Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley hosted a fundraising event called 9/11 Charity Donate & Win. For a \$5 donation to Veterans' Outreach, Hollywood gave the donor \$5 free play with a chance to win up to \$1,500 in free play! Hollywood provided a most friendly team of associates all dressed in Veterans' Outreach T-shirts to run the event. The event went very smoothly because the team was well organized and managed. Many donors won \$25, \$50, \$100, and even some won \$500 in free play.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the event, both hosts and donors. Veterans' Outreach recognizes the efforts of Hollywood Gaming. They developed the event, provided the location, equipment, and employees, and even the value of the free play. This event was a great gift to veterans, but not the first one.

Hollywood Gaming is very supportive of veterans and veterans' needs. Please know that because of you, more veterans' lives will be uplifted, and their circumstances improved. They know that our community cares and appreciates them, we have their back.





## Resource Fair



## STAND DOWN SERVES MORE THAN 300 VETERANS

Veterans' Outreach recently attended a Stand Down, also known as a resource fair for veterans. It was so well-organized, not a detail was left out in the preparations. This event was nearly a year in the making and has been going on for nearly 20 years. It was planned and executed by veterans, but we were told that the inspiration for the organizational flow came from a non-veteran that has hosted similar resource fairs for many years. The site was a beautiful event center, pristinely maintained, with a multitude of parking available. There were dozens of VA

representatives, employers, social service agencies, and vendors in attendance – all with the single goal of helping every veteran in attendance. And there were a lot of them, more than 300 veterans were served. Many types of assistance stood ready including employers offering employment, schools offering education and skills development, food insecurity issues, warming items, health and hygiene needs, benefits assistance, housing assistance, and financial advice and help with various needs. Every veteran was treated with respect and gratitude for their service, and a sincere desire to make a positive impact on their daily quality of life.

Veterans' Outreach gave out small canvas totes stuffed with health and hygiene items, and household products. The totes were warmly received, but the item that really put a sparkle in their eyes was a simple magnet identifying which branch of service they served in. Something that they could wear proudly. The purpose and selflessness that brought them into serving our nation was reawakened by that simple magnet.

We are grateful to be able to participate in these events and to be a part of the solution.

## 9/2 V-J Day

Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) would officially be celebrated in the United States on the day formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay: September 2, 1945.

[Read More →](#)

## 9/11 - Day of Remembrance



On September 11, 2001, nineteen terrorists associated with al-Qaeda, an Islamist extremist group, hijacked four commercial airplanes scheduled to fly from the East Coast to California. The 9/11 terrorist attacks killed 2,977 people and injured thousands at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Somerset County. September 11 has become an annual day for many Americans to remember, reflect, honor, and mourn

## Our Programs For Veterans

Over the last 27 years, we have helped veterans more than 100,000 times. Our motto is to "respectfully serve and honor all veterans".



We have developed programs that perform our mission to help veterans that include the Direct Aid Program, the Outreach Program, the Heroes' Closet Program, and the Freedom Food Pantry Program.

[Read More →](#)

## What We Do Everyday Case Stories

### HOMELESS VETERAN SECURES APARTMENT

A homeless veteran had gotten help from another agency with finding an apartment and getting to the point of being approved to move in. He ran into a major snag that threatened to halt the entire process. It was discovered that he had an outstanding water and sewer bill from a time when his disabilities overcame his good sense. The utility provider stood firm on their policy, no service for this veteran until the past due bill was paid in full. **Veterans' Outreach was able to work with the utility provider and pay the outstanding amounts. The veteran was cleared to move in immediately. Thanks to working with other like-minded agencies, generous donors, and monthly supporters, we can step in and help when it is needed most.**

### HEAVY RAIN AND FLOODING DELUGE VETERANS' BASEMENT

Recent heavy rain and wind had left a veteran with several feet of water in his basement. He just purchased this home earlier this year, and he was loving it – 1<sup>st</sup> time homeowner, at peace and excited to move forward in life. As he sat relaxing in his home, he heard a strange noise, when he looked, he saw the basement quickly filling with water. He does not have flood insurance because it was too expensive. He lives on a fixed income and really was at his wits end when he called Veterans' Outreach for some help. **We advised him to wait a bit to see if FEMA would declare a Flash Flood emergency, then he would get federal aid for his loss. In the meantime, we got him some immediate relief by placing him in a hotel to think things through and figure out his next move. We also provided him with food for his family. When he's ready, he can come back for additional assistance.**

## Donate Now

We thank all of you that have supported our Mission through your donations, thoughts, and prayers. You made it possible to **help tens of thousands of Veterans** with financial assistance, food, and clothing. Your pledge of support is needed to continue our mission to serve and honor all veterans.

Will you make a small monthly pledge of \$10 or more? This gift can immediately make a difference for a Veteran in need.





## Help A Veteran Now

You can also call 888-2-VET-NET and speak with Teri Ely to donate.

## Amazon Smiles

You can make donations happen at NO cost to you while shopping on Amazon. Just register online at Amazon Smiles site at <https://smile.amazon.com>.

Just search and select **Veterans' Outreach** from Youngstown, Ohio (Corporate Office) as your charity of choice. Takes 2 minutes.

Amazon will fund a donation to Veterans' Outreach based on a % of all your purchases. A few minutes of your time can help a veteran in need

Register Now

## Upcoming Events





2022 Trumbull County Homeless Veteran Stand Down Day  
Thursday, September 29, 2022  
at Moose Lodge Pavilion

674 Main Ave SW; Warren, Ohio 44483

9 am - 1 pm

Veterans must bring dog tags, military discharge, or VA ID,  
along with photo ID

Services Available: Haircuts, Comfort items, Clothing, Access to VA Health  
Care, Veteran Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling,  
Employment, Housing, Breakfast, Lunch,  
and Camaraderie with fellow veterans.

## Giving Homeless & At-Risk Veterans a Hand Up, Not a Hand Out


Stand Down day is open to any homeless veteran or at-risk veteran  
in need of assistance.

Sponsored by Trumbull County At Risk Veterans Inc,  
And  
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary #11





# VETERAN STAND DOWN



DRIVE THRU EVENT PROVIDING  
INFORMATION AND PERSONAL ITEMS

WHERE:  
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF  
COLUMBIANA COUNTY

\*PLEASE ENTER THROUGH THE  
FAIRGROUND PARKING LOT ON  
SALTWELL RD.

WHEN:  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 25, 2022

TIME:  
10:00AM-12:00PM

\*PLEASE BRING A PHOTO ID AND PROOF OF VETERAN STATUS\*

\* SERVICES WILL BE LIMITED TO COLUMBIANA COUNTY  
VETERANS ONLY \*

\* LIMITED DROP OFF SERVICE AVAILABLE, PLEASE CONTACT  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION \*

\* 330-424-4013 \*

**Heroes' Passage  
Kentucky Veterans Retreat**

Veterans' Outreach was donated 110 acres of Kentucky wilderness.  
Plans are underway for the development of Heroes' Passage, a  
veteran retreat with a healing environment for veterans that are



having problems with transitioning to civilian life.

[Read More →](#)



Thanks for reading all the way to the bottom of our newsletter. Our team leader for the newsletter had a serious horse accident in August and is only now able to start back to work while undergoing rehab therapy. We thank her for her steadfast dedication to our mission and we pray for her quick and complete recovery.



## Veterans' Outreach



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### New York Office

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### West VA Office

P: (304) 269-9700