

VET NET Newsletter  
May 2023

## Memorial Day

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

# VETERANS' OUTREACH



Serving our veterans in Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, West Virginia &  
New York since 1994



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Four-Star Charity

## SGT William Gordon Ely, Pearl Harbor Survivor and Hero, My Dad



SGT William "Bill" Gordon Ely was born in a small town in Ohio called Gallipolis. As a child starting at 8 years old, he worked on the family farm. Just 9 years later during The Depression, Bill decided to join the Army, pre-WWII. He was determined to enlist, so he lied about his age due to him only being 17 years old.

While touring the South Pacific on assignment, he finally landed what he believed was the dream base, Pearl Harbor. He wrote back home to his Mother and bragged about how he was living in paradise and was so happy. He was having fun barbequing on the beach with the boys and catching all kinds of fish including a 40-pound octopus!

Reading this, I am certain you know what is coming next. Shortly after being stationed at Pearl Harbor came that horrible and fateful day. Just before 8 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941, "Bill" was on the porch of the barracks because of the luckiest upset stomach ever from a cucumber salad the night before, which saved his life. The airfields were the first attacked and more than 2,335 men were lost there. All at once his paradise was turned into sheer pandemonium. Dad was a paramedic, so he was racing off in his ambulance truck just trying to get away from the Japanese aircraft, or Zeros, which were raining down all kinds of artillery all around him. The attack lasted a total of 90 minutes, which felt like an eternity. In just 90 minutes of terror, 2,400 people were dead and 1,100 more were seriously wounded.

My Dad spent four grueling days and nights looking for survivors. Emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually drained he pushed forward. He tended to as many wounded as he could, while he was wounded as well. He even dove into the blazing water rescuing many of those attacked men at the Harbor. After the attack, he spent days administering blood and glucose constantly, especially, to one seriously burned victim. The hospital was overloaded, so Dad would change his bandages and even slept with that man to keep him warm, so he wouldn't go into shock. That man's mother wrote a letter to my Dad thanking him for saving her son's life. The letter was shown to the Red Cross and the charity started a blood drive, using the importance of that story.

My Dad went on to be a founder of the "Pearl Harbor Survivors" Columbus chapter and co-founder of eight other chapters. He was best friends with the man that started a Military Museum., Mott's Military Museum. He left in his will a major donation to the Mott's Military Museum of Columbus, to help with the expansion of the new wing, where his Pearl Harbor coat and memorabilia are on display next to the only piece of

the USS Arizona on display. He had a photographic memory, which was tortuous to him. Every time, though, he had a chance to talk about that historic day, he wouldn't hesitate. He was a CONSTANT reminder of that horrific day when the world came to a halt. He is forever thankful that Warren Mott and his Museum would be there to tell the story, always!"Lest we forget," Dad, you are part of history!

My Dad's story compounded with many other pieces is what led me to do what I do today, lift Veterans up and help make their lives better, in many cases even save their lives. I am blessed and honored to do what I do every day. Thank you, Dad, you're mine and so many other's hero.

Pearl Harbor Survivor's Son and Veterans' Outreach Founder

John Ely  
"To Serve And Honor"  
President Veterans' Outreach

## Memorial Day vs. Veterans Day



Do you know the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day?

A few years ago, there was a viral Facebook post about a woman getting a haircut before Memorial Day weekend. She had lost her husband in a Navy helicopter crash months prior. He died on deployment, never having met their youngest son. So, when the smiling receptionist wished her a "Happy Memorial Day" after she had buried her spouse, the words cut extra deep.

Before you tag every veteran and service member on Facebook and wish them a Happy Memorial Day, remember that, in this community, Memorial Day means something much, much bigger than the start of summer. The day feels fraught with memories of those we've lost, mixed with gratitude for the times we've had.

## Memorial Day vs. Veterans Day

Gold Star wife Krista Simpson Anderson, who lost her husband, Army Staff Sgt. Michael Harrison Simpson, in Afghanistan in 2013, said, "I get upset when people scold others for enjoying the weekend or having BBQs. What do you think our service members did before they died? Mike sure did enjoy his family and friends. What better way to honor them than to be surrounded by family and friends living. But we

are also so grateful for your pause and reflection as you celebrate our heroes and the lives that they lived."

Memorial Day and Veterans Day are different holidays with unique purposes -- and unique ways to honor each.

### How to Celebrate Veterans Day

Veterans Day celebrates the living who served our country. Offer veterans a discount at your business. Call your favorite vet on the phone and thank them for their service. Attend a parade.

### How to Honor Memorial Day

You want to honor and celebrate patriotism and the military this Memorial Day? Then you have to honor the complicated feelings surrounding it. Express your knowledge that this day is about remembrance. Attend a memorial service at a national cemetery.

Talk to your kids about sacrifice, service and what this three-day weekend really means. Observe the [National Moment of Remembrance](#) at 3 p.m. Monday with a minute of silence.

## Those Who Have Sacrificed



## Our Programs

Over the last 29 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

Kindness Matters



Over the past month, our Board Member and amazing Volunteer, Diann, worked with St. Rose Catholic School and the K-2 students there on a donation drive for toiletries for local veterans. We are so thankful to Miss Shenker, Miss Hartz, and Mrs. Ehrenberg for pulling this together with Diann to make such a huge difference in the lives of our local veterans. Thank you to all the students and their families for having such big hearts! It takes a village!



### **M.O.B. Band Concert Benefits Veterans**

On March 11, 2023 a benefit concert was put on by the M.O.B. Band at the Mason Jar Inn in Aurora Ohio. This is a group of friends that get together now and then to make music and their music is well appreciated. The venue was packed with fans that had a great time listening, singing, and dancing to the great sounds of the M.O.B. Band. There wasn't any cover charge because they wanted the funds to be donated to Veterans' Outreach. They passed a bucket several times and the crowd was very enthusiastic to join in with the fundraiser to help veterans. John and Teri Ely gave a short talk and then back to the music. We are so grateful for the community support to join Veterans' Outreach mission of serving and honoring all veterans.

Thank you so much to the band and to Hank, who pulled the event together.



**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.



**Donate Now**



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

## Events

May 20 @ 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

### **Hollywood Casino Armed Forces Day**

Hollywood Gaming 655 N Canfield Niles Rd, Youngstown, OH, United States

Event: Hollywood Casino at Mahoning Valley Date: May 20th, 2023 Time: 11am - 5pm Donate a Minimum of \$5 cash to benefit Veterans Outreach Swipe at marketing kiosk to win a free play prize of \$10 and up to \$1,500

# ARMED FORCES DAY



## DONATE & WIN

**SATURDAY, MAY 20 • 11AM-5PM**

Donate minimum of \$5 cash to  
benefit Veterans Outreach.

Swipe at a marketing kiosk to  
**WIN A FREE PLAY PRIZE OF  
\$10 AND UP TO \$1,500!**

Open to all my**choice** members.

July 23 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

### **Armstrong Street Scene Car & Custom Bike Show**

Austintown Park 1051 S. Raccoon Rd., Austintown, OH, United States

Austintown Park Registration: 10am-Noon Show: Noon-3pm Rain or Shine





September 8

### 8th Annual Golf Scramble

Bedford Trails Golf Course 713 Bedford Road, Lowellville, OH, United States

SAVE THE DATE! Date: September 8th, 2022 Bedford Trails Golf Course 713 Bedford Road, Lowellville, Ohio 44436 Phone: 330-755-5792 | [veteransoutreach.org](http://veteransoutreach.org)





Veterans' Outreach Presents our

# 8TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

For the benefit of local veterans

**BEDFORD TRAILS GOLF COURSE**

**713 BEDFORD ROAD**

**LOWELLVILLE, OH 44436**

(330) 755-5792 || [www.veteransoutreach.org](http://www.veteransoutreach.org)

**8 SEPTEMBER 2023 || SAVE THE DATE**





**May 1, 2023 – Silver Star Banner Day** – Per Congressional resolution, it is an “Official Day to honor wounded, ill, and injured Veterans”.

**May 1, 2023 – Law Day** -celebrates the rule of law in our society and cultivates a deeper understanding of the legal profession. The theme is "Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration."

**May 1, 2023 – National Loyalty Day** celebrate Americans to showcase their loyalty to their country. Nothing on this planet can stop Americans

**May 4, 2023 – National Day Prayer**

**May 4, 2023 – National Day Of Nurses**

**May 7, 2023 – Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces Signed (1945)**

**May 8, 2023 – V-E Day Declared (1945)**

**May 12, 2023 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day** – This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.

**May 13, 2023 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day** – A day to honor the children left behind by the brave men and women who gave their lives while defending our freedom.

**May 15, 2023 - Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week** is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and federal peace officers who have died, or who have been disabled, in the line of duty.

**May 15, 2023 - Women's Army Corps Founded 1942**

**May 20, 2023 – Armed Forces Day** Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

**May 22, 2023 - National Maritime Day** created to recognize the maritime industry. It is observed on May 22, the date in 1819 that the American steamship Savannah set sail from Savannah, Georgia on the first ever transoceanic voyage under steam power.

**May 22, 2023 - Victoria Day (Canada)** federal Canadian public holiday celebrated on the last Monday preceding May 25 to honor Queen Victoria. The holiday has been observed in Canada since at least 1845.

**May 29, 2023 – Memorial Day** A solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military.

## Heroes' Passage In Kentucky

**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 →**



## Veterans' Outreach



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**Florida**  
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33781  
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F: (727) 317-3713

**Kentucky**  
512 E. Main St.  
Grayson, KY 41143  
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F: (606) 475-0217

**New York**  
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**West VA**  
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