## VET NET Newsletter March 2024



## VeTERANS' OUTREACH <br> 

Serving our veterans In Ohlo, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, West Virginla \& New York since 1994

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Four-Star Charity ©

## Platinum <br> Transparency <br> 2023

## Candid.

Explore our \#NonprofitProfile at https://www.guidestar.org/profile/22-3272976 to witness the impactful work we're dedicated to in our community. We're committed to providing you with the necessary progress updates, ensuring you can confidently support our mission with trust and assurance.

## Cathay Williams- The First Female Buffalo Soldier



Honoring Cathay Williams: A Remarkable Heroine
As I delved into our historical archives in search of remarkable women to spotlight in this newsletter, one name emerged with unparalleled impact: Cathay Williams. Her story, amidst the backdrop of the Civil War, resonates with unparalleled bravery and resilience.

Cathay Williams stands as a beacon of courage, distinguished as the first documented African American woman to serve as a soldier in the U.S. Army. Enlisting under the alias William Cathay on November 15, 1866, she defied societal norms and military regulations with unwavering determination.
documented African American woman to serve as a soldier in the U.S. Army. Enlisting under the alias William Cathay on November 15, 1866, she defied societal norms and military regulations with unwavering determination.

Described by her recruiting officer as 5' 9" with black eyes, hair, and complexion, Cathay embarked on a journey that would etch her name forever in history. Despite the Army's prohibition against the enlistment of women, Cathay's resolve remained unshaken. Assigned to the 38th U.S. Infantry, she traversed the vast expanse of the West alongside her fellow soldiers.

Born into slavery in Independence, Missouri, in September 1844, Cathay's early years were marked by adversity. Yet, her spirit remained unbroken. Prior to her voluntary enlistment, she toiled as an Army cook and washerwoman, determined to forge her path to independence.

Throughout her service under General Philip Sheridan, Cathay bore witness to the harrowing realities of war, including the Red River Campaign at the Battle of Pea Ridge. Despite facing the ravages of smallpox and enduring the strains of military life, her commitment to duty never wavered. Ultimately, her remarkable journey culminated in an honorable discharge on October 14, 1868, under the command of Captain Charles E. Clarke.

Cathay Williams' legacy extends beyond her military service; she stands as the sole known female Buffalo Soldier, a testament to the indomitable spirit of women throughout history.

As we reflect on Cathay's extraordinary contributions, let us draw inspiration from her courage and resilience. Her story serves as a poignant reminder of the countless unsung heroes who have shaped our nation's history.
(September 1844-1893)
With gratitude,
John Ely
Founder and President
Veterans' Outreach

## 21 Years Ago the War in Iraq Began



## Our Programs For Veterans

Over the past three decades, we've proudly supported veterans over 150,000 times, embodying our motto of 'respectfully serving and honoring all veterans.'

Our commitment to this mission is reflected in the array of programs we've developed, each tailored to provide essential support to veterans in need. From the Direct Aid Program and Outreach Program to the Heroes' Closet Program and Freedom Food Pantry Program, we've crafted initiatives that aim to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have served our nation.

Read More $\rightarrow$

## Sign Up Today For Our Bowl-A-Thon!



## RESERVE YOUR SPOTS TODAY!

ONLINE: HTTPS://VETERANSOUTREACH.ORG/EVENT/STARS-AND-STRIKES/

# Mark Your Calendars for April th! 



## (2)HAPPENING APRIL 9-10 NOON TO NOON

## GivingChallenge.org

Donations matched!!
(Limitations apply)
Are you ready to make a difference in the lives of our veterans?
Join us in making history by participating in the 2024 GIVING CHALLENGE FOR VETERANS' OUTREACH.

Your help is crucial! Spread the word to your friends and family about the vital work we do and encourage them to join us in creating a positive impact.

Visit the following address on April 9th - April 1oth from noon to noon.
https://www.givingchallenge.org/organizations/veteran-soutreach

Donations are matched to make your gift twice as nice!
Your generosity will make a significant difference in the lives of our veterans. Thank you for your support!


Veterans' Outreach 5650 Park Blvd. N., Ste. 3 Pinellas Park, Florida 33781

Phone: 727-317-3712
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Florida@
VeteransOutreach.org


## Support For Our Veterans

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news of our strong start to 2024, made possible by the unwavering support of these organizations, and, of course, all of our readers, donors, and supporters. Your generosity has been instrumental in propelling Veterans' Outreach toward new heights, and we extend our deepest thanks for your continued commitment to our mission.

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Target Circle:
we're excited to report the positive outcome of our collaboration with Target Circle. Your votes and support have significantly impacted our cause, allowing us to make a tangible difference in the lives of veterans. Their recognition of our mission's importance means so much. Thank you for being a crucial part of our journey

Furnish Your Life.

Sheely's Furniture and Appliance:
A heartfelt thank you to Sheely's Furniture and Appliance for the fantastic partnership initiated during the first quarter of 2024. The overwhelming response to the survey has set the stage for a meaningful collaboration. Their commitment to matching all donations is a testament to their dedication to the well-being of our veterans.
Donations will be collected from January 1st through March 31st at Sheely's North Lima and Aurora locations, making a significant impact on our initiatives. Stay tuned for more opportunities to contribute throughout the quarter!

## Humana

## Humana's Sponsorship:

We're deeply honored to announce Humana's sponsorship. This invaluable support ensures the continuity of our programs, allowing us to reach more veterans facing challenging times and expanding our impact on their lives.

TCC Gives:
Our gratitude extends to TCC Gives for their generous donation of $\$ 2500$ towards food for our Freedom Food Pantry. Their support ensures that essential resources are readily available to our veterans. We appreciate their commitment to making a positive impact in our community and are honored to have their support.


The Youngstown Foundation:
Last but not least, a special thank you to The Youngstown Foundation for providing grant funds to facilitate our transition to a new headquarters. The funds allocated for the flagpole, security cameras, and signage are instrumental in creating a safe and welcoming space for our veterans. We are deeply grateful for your support.

Your contributions serve as a beacon of hope for the veterans we serve, empowering us to forge ahead with renewed determination. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

## Donate Now

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each one of you who has supported our mission through your generous donations, thoughts, and prayers. Because of your unwavering support, we've been able to provide financial assistance, food, and clothing to tens of thousands of veterans in need. As we continue our commitment to serving and honoring all veterans, we humbly ask for your continued pledge of support. Will you consider making a small monthly pledge of $\$ 10$ or more? Your gift has the power to immediately impact a veteran in need and ensure our mission thrives.



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

## News

## March 2024



- 3/1 Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day
- 3/3 Star-Spangled Banner Made U.S. National Anthem (1931)
- 3/12 Girl Scouts of U.S.A founded (1912)
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/19 Iraq War Began (2003)
- 3/20 Spring Begins
- 3/23 Purim Begins
- 3/24 Kosovo Campaign Began (1999)
- 3/29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day


## Military Discounts



## Saluting Our Heroes: Military Discount Merchants

Our military members, veterans, and their families have dedicated their lives in service to our country, and it's time we honor their sacrifice. We're proud to present a curated list of merchants who extend their gratitude by offering exclusive discounts to our brave servicemen and women, veterans, and their families. Explore the generosity of these businesses as we come together to express our appreciation for their selfless commitment.

- $3 / 20$ Spring Begins
- 3/23 Purim Begins
- 3/24 Kosovo Campaign Began (1999)
- 3/29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day (2017)
- 3/31 Somalia Campaign Ended (1995)
- 3/31 Easter
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Read About The Merchants $\rightarrow$

## Heroes' Passage In Kentucky

Exciting News: Veterans' Outreach Receives 110 Acres of Kentucky Wilderness!

We're thrilled to announce that Veterans' Outreach has been
 generously donated 110 acres of pristine Kentucky wilderness. This remarkable gift sets the stage for the creation of 'Heroes' Passage,' a tranquil retreat designed to support veterans facing challenges in transitioning to civilian life. Join us as we embark on this inspiring journey to provide a healing sanctuary for our brave veterans.

Read More $\rightarrow$


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