

VET NET Newsletter
July 2024



VETERANS' OUTREACH





Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

Check out our #NonprofitProfile <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/22-3272976> to see the great work we do for our community. We want to make sure you have the progress updates you need to confidently support our work with trust and confidence.

INDEPENDENCE – WHAT IS IT?

Independence means having the freedom to make choices for our own destiny, free from the control and influences of others. Veterans have paid and continue to pay for our freedoms. Can we all wrap our heads around that?

My name is John Ely. Although I never served in the military, I am proud to say that I have dedicated the last 30 years of my life to helping and honoring our veterans. It is the least I can do, and it's my way of paying it forward.


My father, my brother, my son, and my son-in-law have all served, and many have lived with the mental and physical scars of their service. My passion for supporting veterans has been the driving force behind the foundation of this wonderful charity, a mission I believe God has called me to pursue for the rest of my life.

Millions of citizens have experienced their loved ones' suffering from their service, in protecting our nation's borders. We all need to pause, reflect, and find that passion-driven forward by our loved ones and friends. When a family member serves, we all serve. When they hurt, we hurt or suffer.

That's why I do what I do. I witnessed and felt the despair of seeing my loved ones go through their sufferings. They don't even complain as you might expect. They're just happy to be here, grateful for what they have left. Wow!

My father, a Pearl Harbor Survivor, has an incredible story of survival during that catastrophic, world-changing event. Stationed at Hickam Field, he was on the front porch when the bombing began. As a medic, he immediately hopped into his ambulance truck and started driving, not knowing where he was going.

His truck was strafed twice by a Zero until it crashed into a crater from a previous



bomb, where he received burns. The bombing lasted just 75 minutes at 7:55 in the morning. Despite his wounds, he took care of himself first, then his commanding officer told him to leave the dead and focus on the wounded.

For the next four days and nights, he stayed up, rescuing many men from the burning waters and getting them to the hospital at Hickam. The hospital was filled, and most were laid outside until they could be taken care of. For the rest of his life, my dad could never sleep more than three hours a night, reliving that nightmare for most of his 82 years. My dad, William Gordon Ely, should have received the Medal of Honor.

When I suggested we pursue the Medal of Honor for his actions, he humbly said that many other soldiers deserved it more than he did. My dad's humility is one of the greatest lessons he passed down to me. My service now is a way to honor his memory, as well as the memory of my brother and other relatives who paid for their mental and physical health.

My son Ben, a Major in the Army, just had his third operation from his time in service. Most recently, he underwent surgery for his broken back. Despite all he has endured, he still serves in the military. After 20 years, he still has the drive to finish the mission, knowing that peace is fleeting and the mission is never truly done. Through Veterans' Outreach, I hope and pray that we will always be here to answer the call of duty for our men and women who have served. The American Soul is made possible by those who shared their blood, sweat, and guts for you and me. Please celebrate the independence we have in America and remember that "Freedom isn't Free."

God bless all of our American Veterans!

Please check out our website, VeteransOutreach.org, and consider a donation or becoming a sponsor.

Thank you,
John Ely, America's Son
Founder, Veterans Outreach

For feedback or inquiries, please contact:
jely@veteransoutreach.org
866.212.559
VeteransOutreach.org

Independence Day

On July 4, 1776, the signers of the Declaration of Independence boldly asserted that all are "created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." With these words, our forefathers formed a new nation and put forth a vision of liberty and democracy that would forever alter history. Every Fourth of July, Americans celebrate this pivotal moment in our history, which set into motion the development of a land of freedom and opportunity unequalled in the world.

[Read More →](#)

America The Story Of Us





Our Programs For Veterans

Over the last 30 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 →](#)


4th July

VFW Celebrates the 248th Birthday of America

Remember how we got here, remember the journey isn't over, and remember we're all in this together

WASHINGTON — On July 4, 248 years ago, the Second Continental Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence, but it would take about a month before any one of the delegates actually signed their name. Not everyone's home assembly was on board with the vote. In fact, there were many in the colonies that still had feelings for the crown and didn't want to leave the familiar harbor of the British Empire. For a myriad of reasons, these naysayers were resistant to change and would not go along with their fellow country men and women on what they felt was a radical, dangerous and ill-advised journey. This new form of government was headed into uncharted territory. Nevertheless, the sails of patriotism were hoisted and filled, and the ship called the United States of America had left port. It's hard to fight against a vessel that is already underway.

The Founding Fathers would helm the country through eight more years of the storm



and raging sea that was the American Revolution. It would take faith, courage, dedication, selfless sacrifice and perseverance before they would finally make it to clear skies and still waters. The hope of freedom sustained them and would eventually deliver the American people to an endless ocean of promise for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for them and future generations to strive for. This Independence Day, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) asks every American to remember how we got here, remember the journey isn't over, and remember we are all in this boat together.

Happy 248th birthday, America. Celebrate it.

[Read More →](#)

What We Do To Help Veterans

Independence Day Sale a Great Success!

Veterans' Outreach is thrilled to announce that our Independence Day Clearance Sale was a resounding success, thanks to the incredible support from our community! Over the course of three days—July 1st, 2nd, and 6th—shoppers flocked to the Veterans' Outreach Depot, taking advantage of the 50% off sale on a wide variety of items. The event saw a wonderful turnout, with hundreds of visitors browsing and purchasing furniture, antiques, collectibles, clothing, kids' toys, shoes, dresses, suits, decor, and much more.

Event Highlights:

Community Engagement: The event brought together supporters from all over Youngstown and beyond, showcasing the power of community spirit in supporting our veterans.

Amazing Deals: Shoppers were delighted with the incredible discounts, finding unique items at unbeatable prices.

Supporting Veterans: Every purchase made during the sale directly benefited Veterans' Outreach, helping us continue our mission to assist veterans in need. We are grateful for the support we received during our Independence Day Clearance Sale. The funds raised will significantly impact the services we provide to our veterans, and we couldn't have done it without our amazing community.

Looking Ahead:

Due to the success of this event, Veterans' Outreach is planning more sales and community events in the future. Stay tuned for announcements and updates by following our Facebook page.

Thank You:

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the sale, from the shoppers to the volunteers and staff who made it possible. Your support helps us make a real difference in the lives of our veterans.

For more information about Veterans' Outreach and how you can get involved, please visit our website or contact us directly.

Events



Youngstown Foundation Event Center

Located at Veterans' Outreach,
17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH 44505

Book Your Event Today!

- 4,000 sq ft of space
- Perfect for any occasion
- Kitchen available
- Tables and chairs provided for up to 80 guests
- Available for bookings on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, with some evening availability during the week
- All proceeds benefit Veterans' Outreach
- Accessible bathrooms on-site
- Call for pricing and availability

tely@veteransoutreach.org

330-755-5792 x2

Support our veterans and book your event at the Youngstown Foundation Event Center today!



July 21 @ 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Armstrong Street Scene: Car & Custom Bike Show

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

Registration 10AM - 12PM Show 12PM - 3:30PM

ARMSTRONG
STREET
SCENE
CAR & CUSTOM BIKE SHOW

12
A Dozen Years

July 21, 2024

Austintown Park

50/50 Vegas Band Guys Without Ties
Food Trophies

Registration 10am-Noon

Show Noon-3:30pm

Rain or Shine!





Benefit Run



Saturday July 27th, 2024
Master's Bar and Grill

1675 Trumbull Ave. Girard 44420

Registration-10AM

Color Guard/National Anthem 11:45

Kickstands Up-Noon

Last In-5PM

\$15 Per Person

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF

A.B.A.T.E. of Ohio



SUPPORTING
LOCAL VETERANS



Questions Randy 330-428-2083

ABATE of Ohio is a 501c4 not-for-profit organization.



Veterans' Outreach



9TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2024 || 9AM SHOTGUN START
BEDFORD TRAILS GOLF COURSE

713 BEDFORD ROAD, LOWELLVILLE, OH 44436

18 HOLES & A CART - GAMES - 50/50 - BASKET RAFFLE
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST - BEVERAGE CART

LIGHT LUNCH - DINNER BUFFET

ENTRY FEE: \$80/PERSON OR \$320/TEAM



Captain- Golfer #1

Name: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

Golfer #3

Name: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

Golfer #2

Name: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

Golfer #4

Name: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

Send Entry Form with Payment to:

Veterans' Outreach, 17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH 44505

Or Register Online at:

www.veteransoutreach.org/event/9th-annual-golf-scramble/

Or Call:

330-755-5792 x2

Sponsor Information:

\$150 _____
Write the name wanted on the hole sign.

\$600 _____
Write the name wanted on your banner. This level includes a banner at the welcome area, hole sponsor, sign, free foursome, media coverage, catered dinner, snacks, and drinks.

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.

The Youngstown Foundation



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.

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!

Hollywood Gaming

HOLLYWOOD Gaming®

MAHONING VALLEY RACE COURSE

For years now, Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course has been a supporter of ours. We are so grateful for them and their kindness. These much needed funds go towards renovating our new building location. Thank you Hollywood Gaming!

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

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 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.

News

July



[Independence Day](#)

July 4

[National Hire A Veteran Day](#)

July 25

[National Korean War Veterans](#)

[Armistice Day](#)

July 27

[National Buffalo Soldiers Day](#)

July 28

[Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary](#)

Hire A Veteran



An internet search shows articles from many recognized business leaders who endorse hiring veterans as a good business practice. Why? Veterans bring the following attributes and characteristics to the workplace:

- Proven leadership and leadership readiness
- Mission-focused approach to work
- Experience working in diverse teams and organizations
- Adaptable and immediate contributors
- Strong work ethics
- Strong performance

July 29

- under pressure
- Creative problem-solving
- Self-starter
- Integrity

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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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