VET NET Newsletter June 2024



Flag Day and National Flag Week

VETERANS' OUTREACH



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



Platinum Transparency **2023**

Candid.

Check out our #NonprofitProfile <u>https://www.guidestar.org/profile/22-3272976</u> 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.

The Banner of Freedom: Old Glory, 247 Years of Service

Wow, what a ride! Find your flag, stop, put your hand over your heart, or give a salute to the most treasured object on the planet. It has been a beacon of hope for hundreds of millions.

It comes by many names and withstands everything and everyone that seeks to do us harm. It has endured bullet holes, dirt, mud, fire, and most importantly, it is soaked with the blood of our family, friends, acquaintances, and those patriots who laid down their lives to protect our nation and our freedoms.

To me, it is a holy relic, blessed by God. It flies under God with great pride and optimism for all of us.

It is truly amazing how anyone can disparage the truth, honor, sincerity, and strength that come with that flag we all pledge to—and should.

There's nothing more compelling and chest-swelling than reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem with other freedom-loving patriots.

Recently, our charity, Veterans' Outreach, hosted a flag retirement ceremony. A local veteran group orchestrated the event at our new complex. I couldn't believe the number of flags turned in to be laid to rest respectfully.

The American flag was designed to represent the new union of the thirteen original states: thirteen stripes, alternating red and white, and thirteen stars, white on a blue field. One of the first flags had the stars arranged in a circle, symbolizing the equality of all colonies.

The origins of the Stars and Stripes have become part of American folklore. It is widely believed that Betsy Ross made the first American flag. However, various towns in colonial America have claimed to be the birthplace of the Stars and Stripes.

We know that on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States of America. The Declaration of Independence made this resolution necessary. Previously, each colony had its own flag, which they flew on colonial vessels. England considered these armed vessels pirate ships and hanged their crews when captured.

The American flag was designed to represent the new union of the thirteen original states: thirteen stripes, alternating red and white, and thirteen stars, white on a blue field. The thirteen stripes represented the struggle for independence; red stood for valor, white for purity, and blue for loyalty.

In 1818, after a few design changes, the United States Congress decided to retain the flag's original thirteen stripes and add new stars to reflect each new state that entered the union.

Since then, Americans have fought and died to preserve the ideals of democracy represented by the flag.

Customs for Displaying Our Flag

- Display the flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings or flagstaffs, and at night only if properly lighted.
- The flag should be raised and lowered by hand and never raised furled.
- Always hoist the flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously.
- The flag may be displayed on any day, but especially on national holidays.
- On Memorial Day, display the flag at half-mast until noon only, then hoist it to the top of the staff.
- When carried, the flag should be held aloft, never flat or horizontal.
- Salute a flag when it passes by in a parade, during the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem, and in a ceremony raising or lowering it.
- The flag should never touch the ground or floor, brush against any objects, or be used as drapery of any sort.
- The flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of distress in instances of extreme danger.
- When a flag is no longer in a condition to be displayed, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

When we recently performed that ceremony, it was very solemn and respectful. I hope we all can pull together and restore the respect our national flag, national pride, and nation's soul deserve, enshrined in those colors—the Red, White, and Blue.

We all share those fibers in our beings. Keep waving those wonderful sturdy banners, always, in the face of those adversaries we will continue to have victory over.

God bless our flag, our nation, and our veterans who ensure those colors don't run.

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

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

History Of The Flag



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**.

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Flag Day

Flag Day is June 14 and celebrates the official symbol for the United States: our Stars and Stripes. Flag Day was first recognized by Congress on June 14, 1777, which became know as Flag Day.

Not only is the U.S. flag older than the Union Jack of Great Britain and the tri-color flag of France, but also is the only flag to have been flown on the moon. Congress first stated that there should be a star and stripe for every state. Our first flag had 13 stars and 7 red and 6 white stripes. In 1794, two new states were added and we had a flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes. By 1818 there were 20 states, but our county was still using the flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes. Congress thought about having 20 stripes and agreed that it might become a problem because of its size so they passed a law that said there would be 13 stripes for the original 13 states, and they would add a star for each new state that joined the union.

The U.S. flag is 13 stripes: seven red and six white. A blue field with 50 stars is

located next to the staff in the upper left corner of the flag. It extends from the top to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe. The stars are arranged in alternating rows of six and five representing the 50 states of the United States. The stars do not represent any given state.

The colors used in the flag give special meaning to the flag: Red for valor and zeal; white for hope and cleanliness of life; and blue — the color of heaven — for reverence and loyalty.

The stars are an ancient symbol of the heavens. Our flag's 50 stars represent each state as part of the nation, but also a separate level of government. Our federal government was not given the power to control, so that each state would be able to govern themselves in those things they could do better. When you are looking at the flag, you are looking at the magnificent history of all Americans who have lived before us, your own ancestors, the most enduring nation of free people that has ever existed.

Read More →

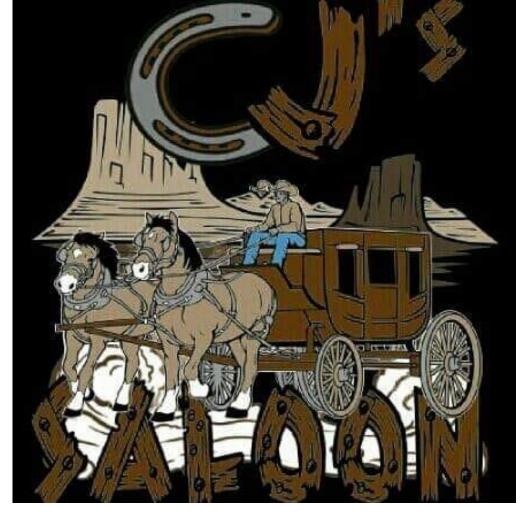


AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

The mission of the American Veterans Center is to 'guard the legacy and honor the sacrifice' of American veterans from the last 75 years of our shared history. Through oral history preservation, educational programs and civic events, we preserve the stories – and lessons – of veterans past and present, from which future generations can learn.

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What We Do Everyday



Community Spotlight: CJ's Saloon Raises \$2300 for Veterans' Outreach

We are excited to announce a heartwarming contribution from CJ's Saloon LLC in Arab, AL. Through a dynamic bike wash and auction event, they raised an impressive \$2300 to support the initiatives of Veterans' Outreach in Alabama.

This generous donation was received by Carol at our Hartselle office, who expressed immense gratitude on behalf of all the veterans we serve. We want to extend our appreciation to them and everyone involved in this event.

The funds will be instrumental in enhancing the services and support we provide to veterans. We are incredibly grateful for the community's continuous support and look forward to sharing the positive impacts of this donation.

Thank you, CJ's Saloon, and all the participants, for your dedication to making a difference in the lives of our veterans!

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| | MOAA |

MSVC-MOAA's Support Shines

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MSVC-MOAA) for their generous recognition and support of our cause.

Our Executive Director, Teri Ely, and our President/Founder, John Ely, had the honor of being guest speakers at the MSVC-MOAA meeting. It was an incredible opportunity to share our mission and vision with such esteemed individuals dedicated to serving our nation's veterans.

Their warm reception and unwavering support truly touched our hearts. Not only did they welcome us with open arms, but they also went above and beyond by making a generous donation to support our initiatives.

We cannot express enough how much this means to us. Your recognition and contribution will directly impact the lives of the veterans we serve, providing them with the resources and assistance they need as they transition back to civilian life. Thank you, MSVC-MOAA, for your kindness, generosity, and commitment to supporting our veterans. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have selflessly served our country.

Events

June 15 @ 12:00PM Flag Retirement Ceremony 17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown Ohio 44505 JOIN US FOR A FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY PRESENTED BY VETERANS' OUTREACH & LOWELLVILLE AMERICAN LEGION POST 247



Date 15 June 2024

Time

12:00 PM

Place

Veterans' Outreach 17 Colonial Drive Youngstown, OH 44505

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Join us for a solemn Flag Retirement Ceremony. Light refreshments will be provided. Please bring a chair. Let's gather to honor our nation's flag and pay tribute to its service.

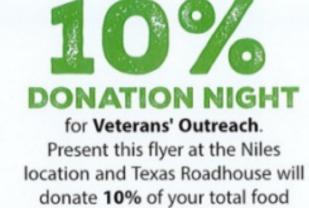




For more information, contact tely@veteransoutreach.org

Thank You, Texas Roadhouse! Join us for a special Dine to Donate event at Texas Roadhouse...





purchases to Votorans' Outroach

Youngstown Foundation Event Center Located at Veterans' Outreach,

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 6 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Car Show & Swap Meet

600 C W Stevens Blvd. Grayson, KY 41143 600 C W Stevens Blvd., Grayson, KY, United States. Cars, Trucks, Jeeps and Motorcycles Food and Drinks Fee: \$20 Vendor Fee: \$20 Tool Raffle Basket Tickets : \$5 for 1 & \$10 For 3 Sing in At 9am Judging



Cars, Trucks, Jeeps, Motorcycles

Food & Drinks Entry Fee: \$20 Vendor Fee: \$20 Tool Basket Raffle! Tickets: \$5 for 1 & \$10 for 3



July 6TH 2024 9AM-5PM Sign in at 9AM Judging at 1:30PM Trophies at 3:00PM Grandview Superstore 600 C W Stevens Blvd. Grayson, KY 41143

For More Information Contact Us: 606-475-0216 www.veteransoutreach.org

| Veterans' Outreach 974 ANNUAL | | |
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| | CRAMBLE | |
| 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 | | |
| | CH - DINNER BUFFET | |
| ENTRY FEE: \$80/ | PERSON OR \$320/TEAM | |
| OO Captain- Golfer #1 | Golfer #3 | |
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| Captain- Golfer #1 Name: Phone: E-Mail: Golfer #2 Name: Phone: E-Mail: Send Entry I Veterans' Outreach, 17 Co Or Re www.veteransoutreach.or | Golfer #3 Golfer #3 Phone: | |
| Captain- Golfer #1 Name: Phone: E-Mail: Golfer #2 Name: Phone: Phone: E-Mail: Send Entry I Veterans' Outreach, 17 Co Or Reg www.veteransoutreach.on 330 | Golfer #3 Golfer #3 Phone: E-Mail: Golfer #4 Mame: Phone: Phone: E-Mail: Form with Payment to: blonial Drive, Youngstown, OH 44505 gister Online at: rg/event/9th-annual-golf-scramble/ | |

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

Sheely's

Furnish Your Life.



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

HOLLY WOOD 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

June



Anniversary of the World War II – Allied invasion in Normandy, France, now known as D-Day. June 6, 2024

Flag Day – A day to celebrate the adoption of the U.S. flag. June 14, 2024

Army Birthday June 14, 2024

Juneteenth June 19, 2024

Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday June 23, 2024

National PTSD Awareness Day – A



Many discounts available for military and veterans. Just a small sampling of discounts listed below.

<u>Read More →</u>

Honda Military Discount

Bass Pro Shops Military Discount

Tours4Fun Military Discount

Carowinds Military Appreciation Month Military Discount

Sleep Number Offers Military Discounts in May

Eyemart Express 20% Military Discount day to bring awareness about issues related to PTSD. Find resources for PTSD here. June 27, 2024

Busch Gardens Offers Special Summer Deal for Military Veterans

Atkins Military Discount

Costco Military Discount

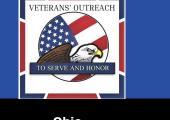
GM Offers Special Discounts for Military

VeteranRx Offers Free Prescription Card

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** \rightarrow





Veterans' Outreach



Ohio Corporate 17 Colonial Drive Youngstown, OH 44505 Phone: 888-2VETNET Fax: 330-755-5930

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Alabama 807 Midway St. Hartselle, AL 35640 P: (256) 778-3266 F: (256) 778-03267

Florida 5650 Park Blvd. N Ste. 3 Pinellas Park, FL 33781 P: (727) 317-3712 F: (727) 317-3713 Kentucky 512 E. Main St. Grayson, KY 41143 P: (606) 475-0216 F: (606) 475-0217

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New York P: (888) 283-8638 West VA P: (888) 283-8638

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

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