

VET NET Newsletter

March 2025



VETERANS' OUTREACH



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

The Vietnam Veteran's Story

For decades, we have heard the voices of Vietnam Veterans, voices filled with pain, frustration, and memories of a war that never truly ended for them. Their experiences were horrific, making their transition back to civilian life incredibly difficult. Many struggled, and tragically, too many turned to suicide.

Millions of Americans answered the call to serve, repeatedly putting themselves in harm's way. Yet, we can never fully grasp the depth of their sacrifices. During this time, many were subjected to government experiments and used as guinea pigs in ways we still don't fully understand. LSD trials were among the most notorious, intensifying the trauma that so many endured.

The impact of PTSD on these veterans was compounded by the experiments they unknowingly participated in. Our government—our own nation—betrayed them, without thought or regard for their well-being.

Agent Orange: A Deadly Legacy

My brother, Richard, was one of those casualties. He parachuted into a jungle just after it had been sprayed with Agent Orange. That defoliant—intended to strip leaves from trees—was also poisoning the men on the ground.

If a chemical can destroy plant life so efficiently, what do you think it does to human flesh? No one thought that through—or perhaps, they simply didn't care.

When the war ended, nearly 58,000 American lives had been lost. But that wasn't the final death toll. 2.7 million served in Vietnam—how many have died since from exposure to toxins like Agent Orange?

A Nation's Betrayal

When our Vietnam Veterans finally came home, they weren't met with parades or celebrations. Instead, they were met with jeers, disgust, and outright hostility. Many were spat on and called "baby killers." The way they were treated still infuriates me to this day.

My brother Richard carried that burden every single day of his life. No veteran should ever have to endure such disgrace after serving their country.

Your Story Deserves to Be Heard

If you are a Vietnam Veteran, I want to hear your story—what happened to you and your comrades? This April, Veterans' Outreach is dedicating the month to honoring Vietnam Veterans. WKBN and its affiliate stations have asked us to participate in two special TV programs, airing on April 21st and May 5th.

Join Us for a Roundtable Discussion

Before these specials air, we will be hosting a Vietnam Veteran Roundtable at Veterans' Outreach Headquarters in Youngstown, Ohio.

Date: April 2, 2025

Location: Veterans' Outreach Event Center, 17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH

Time: 11:00 AM (EST)

We are inviting Vietnam Veterans and the public to participate in an open forum, where stories will be shared, questions will be asked, and the truth will be told—raw and unfiltered.

This discussion is long overdue. We must ensure that the mistakes and injustices of the past are never repeated.

Get Involved

If you are interested in being part of this forum or sharing your story, please contact me directly:

Email:

elyvetnet@aol.com

jely@VeteransOutreach.org

Visit our website for more information: VeteransOutreach.org

Lest we forget.

God bless our veterans!

John Ely

President Veterans' Outreach

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 →](#)

**We Are Nominated For Readers Choice
Award From Tribune Chronicle**



CONTEST TIMELINE

Dates to Know

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 2/16-2/23/25 | Nomination Period |
| 2/3/25 | Sales open for first voting round advertising |
| 3/7/25 | Sales close for first voting round advertising |
| 3/30/25 | First voting Round publication announcing nominees |
| 3/30-4/6/25 | First Voting Round open |
| 4/8/25 | Sales open for final voting round advertising |
| 5/2/25 | Sales close for final voting round advertising |
| 5/18/25 | Final voting Round publication announcing the Top 5 |
| 5/18-5/25/25 | Final Voting Round open |
| 5/27/25 | Sales open for Winners and Finalists publication |
| 6/27/25 | Sales close for Winners and Finalists publication |
| 7/13/25 | Winners and Finalists announced in publication and on website |

Tribune Chronicle

For more information, contact your Account Representative: 330-841-1700

K-9 Veterans Day

National K9 Veterans Day, March 13, is a day set aside to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs throughout history.

It was on March 13, 1942, that the Army began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps," according to American Humane, marking the first time that dogs were officially a part of the U.S. Armed Forces.





Come On In!

GREAT FINDS FOR EVERYONE!

CLOTHING * FURNITURE * ANTIQUES * & MORE!

Sales Benefit Veterans Financial Services

20% Discount to Veterans

Vouchers Available for Veterans in Need by Request

Open Monday-Wednesday & Saturday!

17 Colonial Drive, Youngstown, OH

10am-4pm



VITAL SERVICES



17 Colonial Drive Youngstown, Oh
Monday - Wednesday & Saturday 10AM-4PM

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!



12TH ANNUAL
NCAA TOURNAMENT
CALCUTTA AUCTION
2025



WEDNESDAY MARCH 19TH, 2025

LORENZINO'S BOCCE CLUB | 128 JACOBS RD. YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44505

REGISTRATION AT 5PM | AUCTION BEGINS AT 6PM | ADDITIONAL PARKING AVAILABLE ACROSS STREET

ALL 64 TEAMS WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER
THE FURTHER YOUR TEAM ADVANCES, THE MORE \$\$\$ YOU WIN!!

92% PAYOUT TO PARTICIPATING BIDDERS



8% TO BENEFIT
VETERANS OUTREACH



GROUPS &
TEAMS ARE
ENCOURAGED

FOOD
AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE



BUCKET
SPECIALS

TEAMS MUST BE
PAID FOR NIGHT
OF AUCTION



FOR MORE INFORMATION / QUESTIONS CALL OR TEXT CODY HOLECKO @ 406-529-6621



Church Hill U. Methodist

Health Fair

March 22, 2025, 10:30 am-2:30pm

189 Churchill - Hubbard Rd., Youngstown, OH, (Liberty Twp.)

Oak Street Health

Walmart Vision
Center

Mercy Health
Hospice Services

Center for Hearing Care

Mercy Health Dental Van

Trumbull County
Mobile Market

Pristine Dental

Liberty Fire Dept.

Liberty Police Dept.

Senior Care

Liberty Administration

ManUp Prostate Cancer

Grief Service
Information

Veterans Outreach

Raffles and Refreshments

**Veterans' Outreach Presents Our
3rd Annual**

STARS AND STRIKES

**Bowl-A-Thon to
Benefit Veterans In Need
Sunday, June 1st at Camelot Lanes
628 Boardman-Canfield Rd, Youngstown, OH**



TIME:

**CHECK-IN STARTS AT 1:30 PM
BOWLING (SHOES INCLUDED): 2-4 PM
APPETIZERS & SOFT DRINKS PROVIDED
PIZZA BUFFET & AWARDS: 4-5 PM**

DETAILS:

**COST: \$35 PER PERSON
BASKET AUCTION AND 50/50 RAFFLE!
TEAMS OF 4, ALL AGES WELCOME!
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

RESERVE YOUR SPOTS TODAY!

**ONLINE: WWW.VETERANSOUTREACH.ORG/EVENT/STARS-AND-STRIKES/
MAIL OR STOP BY: 17 COLONIAL DRIVE, YOUNGSTOWN 44505
CALL: 330-755-5792 EXT. 2
EMAIL: TELY@VETERANSOUTREACH.ORG**

SIGN UP TODAY!

TEAM SPONSOR/TEAM NAME:

BOWLERS:

1. -----

2. -----

3. -----

4. -----

CAPTAIN & CAPTAIN'S CELL PHONE #:

**MAIL THIS FORM WITH CHECK TO:
VETERANS' OUTREACH
17 COLONIAL DRIVE
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44505**





Support For Our Veterans

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.

Thank You, Walmart Foundation!



Veterans' Outreach is deeply grateful to the Walmart Foundation for their continued generosity and unwavering commitment to veterans in need. Their support has allowed us to expand our programs and services, providing crucial assistance to those who have served our country. With their help, we can ensure that veterans receive the care, stability, and resources they deserve. Thank you for making a real difference!

A Heartfelt Thanks to TCC Gives!



We extend our sincere appreciation to TCC Gives for their generous support of our mission. Their contributions have directly impacted the lives of veterans by helping us provide essential aid, from food and housing assistance to emergency financial relief. TCC Gives' commitment to giving back strengthens our ability to serve those who have sacrificed for our freedom. Thank you for your kindness and dedication!

Meijer's Generosity is Changing Lives!



A special thank you to Meijer for their incredible generosity and dedication to supporting veterans in need. Through their contributions, we are able to provide vital services that uplift and empower those who have served our nation. Meijer's commitment to community impact is truly inspiring, and we are honored to have them as a partner in this mission. Together, we are making a lasting difference!

CSX: Driving Support for Our Veterans



We are incredibly grateful to CSX for funding a portion of the Veterans' Outreach Empowerment Initiative. Their support ensures that veterans receive life-changing assistance, including housing, food, medical aid, and emergency relief. CSX has a long history of standing with veterans, and their generosity helps us continue our mission of providing a hand up, not a handout. Thank you, CSX, for your dedication to those who have served!

Thank You to Ohio State Eagles Club #2178!

Veterans' Outreach is deeply grateful to the Ohio State Eagles Club #2178 from Ashland, Ohio, for their generous donation of \$5,000. Your support plays a vital role in helping us continue to serve and support our veterans. We are honored to have you as a partner in our mission and truly appreciate your commitment to making a difference in the lives of those who have served our country. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Grant Received from the Trumbull County Commissioners



We are beyond excited to announce that the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission has generously provided a grant for \$90,000 to our cause. This substantial contribution will be pivotal in expanding our services and resources for veterans in need. The grant underscores the importance of our mission and provides a significant boost to our efforts in making a lasting difference in the lives of those who have served our country. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission for their incredible support.

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.

Hollywood Gaming



For years now, Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course has been a steadfast 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!

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.

March



[Women's History Month](#)
Entire Month of March

[Seabee Birthday](#)
March 1

[Navy Reserve Birthday](#)
March 3

[Hug a GI Day](#)
March 4

[Mardi Gras](#)
March 4

[Daylight Saving Time](#)
Begins March 9, 2025

[K-9 Veterans Day](#)
March 13

[American Legion Birthday](#)
March 15

[St. Patrick's Day](#)
March 17

[Rosie The Riveter Day](#)
March 21

[Military World Games](#)
March 23 – 30, 2025 (Switzerland)

[Medal of Honor Day](#)
March 25

[National Vietnam War Veterans Day](#)
March 29

Discounts



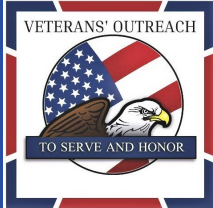
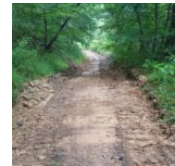
Military Discounts highlight the commitment of businesses that support our military through numerous military discounts, deals and freebies for active duty service members, veterans and their families.

[**Find Discounts →**](#)

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



| Ohio | Alabama | Florida | Kentucky | New York |
|---|---|---|--|--|
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Veterans' Outreach | 17 Colonial Drive | Youngstown, OH 44505 US

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